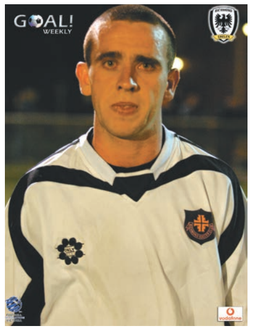
BRINGING YOU TOMORROW'S NEWS TODAY.

James Holland
(Newcastle Jets from AIS)

Rodrigo Vargas
(Melb Victory from Green Gully)

Steven Pace
(Melb Victory from Preston Lions)

Jason Naidovski
(Newcastle Jets from AIS)



James Robinson
(Melb Victory from Richmond Eagles)

Vaughan Coveny
(Newcastle Jets from South Melb)

Manny Muscat
(W'ton Phoenix from Green Gully)

Sash Ognenovski
(Qld Roar from Fawkner Blues)

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FFV HOLDS FIRM ON VPL CLUBS

FOOTBALL FEATURE ON ANDY O'DELL

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goal! Weekly

Season 4: Issue 27 Monday 25th August 2008

Supporting all colours and reporting in black and white

What, Me Worry?

Photo: With apologies to Alfred E Newman from MAD FC

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FOOTBALL FEATURE

Andy O'Dell

O'DELL EYES GLORY

Georgies Shining Once Again

ANDY O'Dell can be a feisty bugger. He admits to having run-ins with coaches during his playing career and he reckons he's "been a real prick" to some of the players he's coached at times but he stands on the threshold of his greatest ever achievement as a senior coach.

"I sometimes think I'm too honest. It gets me into trouble, but stuff 'em. You only coach to get sacked, don't you? That's what's it's all about," says the man on the verge of gaining promotion from Division One with Sunshine Georgies and taking this proud club back into Premier League where history dictates that it belongs.

When he was playing many of his coaches experienced the blunt edge to O'Dell's beliefs about football, the way it should be played and the way you should train. Players who have come under his coaching guidance also have experienced his forthright approach. So have committeemen, supporters, referees and assistant referees. What they all have encountered at some stage is a man passionate about football but a man with enormous belief in his methods.

With a machine-gun rapidity he rattles off his bio as a player and as a coach. It's impressive. He pauses for a nanosecond to reload then resumes his rapid-fire response to your questions.

"I was born in the magnificent Premier League city of Hull," he says with a chuckle which doesn't mask his pride in his hometown's recent success. "I played with Hull City boys but was apprenticed at Grimsby Town. George Kerr was the manager and I made my debut when I was 18 against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. My second game was against Newcastle at home and they had Kevin Keegan, Terry McDermott and Chris Waddle in their side."

He's talking about the old Second Division which also featured Derby County and Leeds United and his talents as a box-to-box midfielder were quickly recognised. He was in the 30-man England squad preparing to come to Australia for the World Youth Cup Finals in 1981 but when that squad was pruned to 20 he missed out on selection.

He also has a vivid memory of the first time he came face to face with Scottish and Derby legend Archie Gemmill at the old Baseball Ground in Derby.

"Our manager told me to stick close to Gemmill but to be honest the closest I got to him was in the bar after the game. He was magnificent, easily the best player I ever played against. He just played these little one-twos and I never got near him. The second time we played him he came up to me at the end of the game and said 'you did better this time, son'. He was unbelievable."

O'Dell switched to Rotherham for two seasons and during that stint managerial legend Brian Clough put in a bid of £250,000 for him. Although O'Dell met Clough three times, former Grimsby manager Kerr was managing Rotherham and conned the youngster into staying. "He said I'd be better off going to a big club and like a fool I listened to him. Hey, how's this one – a year later Kerr had been sacked and I got sold by the new gaffer to Torquay!"

O'Dell bristles at the memory of his run-ins with Torquay manager David Webb, the former Chelsea defender. "He was a big, angry, horrible English fellow. I bloody hated him."

Sunshine Georgies gaffer Andy O'Dell is on the verge of the greatest achievement of his coaching career.

In 1987 O'Dell joined Darlington but suffered a bad ankle injury. That was when Willie Raynes contacted him about coming to Melbourne and joining Heidelberg and O'Dell made the move. Terry Hennessey was coaching the Bergers and Raynes, O'Dell and Phil Stubbins made an impact as the Olympic Village outfit won the 1988 State League title.

"Then my best mate, Jim Tansey, got the job and got rid of me. He said I was a trouble maker. I had two seasons under Cedo Cirkovic at Fawkner and probably played some of the best football of my life," said O'Dell.

"I transferred to Morwell Falcons but I don't want to say much about that. The next season I joined Perth Croatia under Frannie Burns and then Robbie Dunn took over as the gaffer. I had to have a knee op and then I joined Croydon under Terry Hennessey. When Terry got sacked Davie Jones took over but I was knackered as a player. Davie got me to coach the reserves for the last few games of the season and I guess that's when I got a feel for coaching.

"Then Billy Morrey talked me into playing for Mitcham. I think we lost about seven on the trot and Billy got sacked. I got the job and signed Danny Zemunik and 'Shaky' (Stevie Keenan) and we won 12 in a row. That really got me going."

Duze Zemunik lured O'Dell to Chelsea Hajduk next season and when Zemunik went to Croatia on holiday he recommended O'Dell as his replacement. O'Dell was developing as a coach and when Stubbins offered him an assistant coaching role at Whittlesea he jumped at the opportunity.

"We put an ad in the paper for players to turn up to sessions at Melbourne Uni. We got four players the first night and two the second night so we had a hell of a job on our hands. But that time I spent with those youngsters at Whittlesea (four seasons) was the best time of my coaching career. To watch those kids develop and to see them understand and react to your ways was brilliant. Not one of those kids talked back to you, they just wanted to learn. And I learned a lot about myself too. It proved to me that I could coach. It gave me confidence in my methods."

And the Stubbins–O'Dell mix worked, Whittlesea soaring into Division One then Premier League. Part of the way through the 2002 season O'Dell joined Richmond after getting a call from president Helmut Kalitzki and revamped the squad for the 2003 season. "I brought my cavalry in and we won the championship. Then we finished third in Division One the following year. My wife got pregnant and was ready to have the baby when I resigned after half a dozen games of the 2005 season."

In 2006 O'Dell took on the Northcote coaching job – for five games. "It was the biggest regret of my coaching career. I shouldn't have taken on that job. I wanted to get rid of some boys who'd been there for a long time but the committee refused to do it so I left."

That was when good pal Toby Paterson phoned and offered O'Dell an assistant's role with Dandenong Thunder. "We had a successful time there but I got the Coburg job for the 2007 season. That was another mistake. They promised me the world but once we lost two on the trot they sacked me. It was the way they did it that left a bitter taste in my mouth. All I got was a phone call."

O'Dell was starting to think whether coaching was worth the hassles and he shunned overtures from Stonnington and Thunder at the end of last season. But when Sunshine Georgies came knocking he saw the position as both challenging and tempting. He accepted the club's offer ("I just thought stuff it, let's go for it") little realising just how challenging the task was to restore some pride in a club that was in debt and had just been relegated from Premier League.

"I organised a meeting and four first team players turned up. Lucky I had decent contacts and we were able to bring in visa players to mix in with the local lads and I have to say that the atmosphere amongst the lads is brilliant. When we go out we all go out together. I reckon that's worth nine points a season that.

"But at the end of the day players make coaches. Look, I've been a real prick to these lads at times this season but they've responded magnificently. We knew the British boys could play but the lads that have stayed with us and others we've brought in locally have been outstanding. I mean, I've even got Vasco Trpcevski kicking people and he's a bloody gentleman!

"I believe in my ways. I do things the way I was brought up as a pro in England. We work on getting back behind the ball but when we get it we break quickly. "Look, I certainly didn't do this job for the money. The club was knackered when I took it on and if we can get promoted this year I'll regard that as my greatest coaching achievement so far."

And if Georgies can hold onto O'Dell that may be their greatest achievement of recent times for his success there has not gone unnoticed. At least three other clubs are believed to be chasing his signature for the 2009 season.

"It's all up in the air at the moment. The committee has asked me to sit down and talk but I'm just concentrating on these last couple of games right now. We'll sort things out at the end of the season."

By Craig MacKenzie

Photo by John Punshon

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SEMIR SIVIC

RICHMOND EAGLES FC

FULL NAME: Semir Sivic
BIRTHPLACE: Belgrade, Yugoslavia
BIRTH DATE: 29/11/1987
HEIGHT: 181cm
WEIGHT: 79kg
MARRIED: Single and looking
CAR: Ford Laser
OCCUPATION OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL:
Part-Time Footballer
NICKNAME: Sivic or Sivdog
PREVIOUS CLUBS:
V.I.S. & Frankston Pines
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS:
Australian Schoolboys, Victorian U14's, 15's & 16's
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO:
David Beckham, Ruud Gullit
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Steven Gerrard
FAVOURITE FOXTEL CUP PLAYER:
Stuart McCluskey
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO:
Mehmet Durakovic
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO:
Timmy Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER:
Melbourne Victory v Socceroos
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN:
Australia v Uruguay World Cup Qualifier in Sydney
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED:
U15 Nationals v A.C.T.
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL:
Too many to mention
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:
Being injured
WORST INJURY: Broken tibia and fibula
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:
Tony Sterjovski
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND:
Epping Stadium
SUPERSTITIONS: Right boot on first
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Pasta
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS:
Speed, crossing
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES:
Heading, defending
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP:
Liverpool
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS:
Tennis, Hockey
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON:
Roger Federer
FAVOURITE FOODS: Chicken Schnitzel
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS:
Johnny Depp, Angelina Jolie
HOBBIES:
Fishing, Hanging with mates, Discos, Tennis
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Mykonos
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: CQ, Precinct
IDEAL DATE: Stephanie Rice
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS:
Family Guy, The Footy Show
FAVOURITE MUSIC: House, 80's
FAVOURITE FILM: Donnie Brasco
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Liverpool
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: Will be playing for Heidelberg in 2009
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER:
Dad, Uncle, Ernie Merrick
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER:
Being injured
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To play at the highest level, get an A-League contract
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? :
Steven Gerrard, Fernando Torres
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S FOXTEL CUP:
Richmond Eagles

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FFV HOLDS FIRM

But Independent Review To Take Place

FOOTBALL Federation Victoria has wasted no time in responding to a controversial letter of complaint from Foxtel Cup clubs but the federation's board has remained resolute in its commitment to the current rules of competition, meaning that there will be a 12-team Premier League next season and the promotion and relegation structure outlined earlier this year will remain in place.

On Friday 15 August a letter outlining a series of demands and subsequent action should FFV not consent to the demands was delivered to FFV CEO Mark Rendell. The letter was signed by lawyer Joe Brondolino, former Victorian federation head and Soccer Australia board member. The letter named Brondolino as "Provisional Chairman of the Premier League Clubs Committee" and gave FFV a deadline of 26 August to respond.

FFV has sent a letter to the Foxtel Cup clubs outlining its response to their demands and signalling the engagement of independent consultants to review the viability of Premier League and Division One as semi-professional competitions.

"The rules of competition will remain in place. Nothing has been put to the board that changes its view of having a viable Premier League competition and hopefully next season we will see the benefits of a more condensed league in terms of crowd numbers," said Rendell.

"In terms of other proposed competitions (summer league), the board remains committed to a viable and sustainable winter competition.

"We will engage independent consultants to initiate a full and frank discussion with all stakeholders regarding semi-professional leagues in Victoria and this will be done in full consultation with the clubs."

The board also discussed the demand that the AIS be booted out of the league at the end of next season and the institute's position in the competition remains precarious.

"In terms of the AIS, discussions continue with Football Federation Australia and the AIS as to the future and the views of Premier League clubs will be relayed to both the FFA and the AIS," Rendell added.

Premier League spokesman Aki Ionnas of Oakleigh Cannons, Chairman of the Men's Standing Committee which oversees all senior men's leagues, was quick to respond to the federation's actions.

"Listen, this is not about me, it's not about you, it's not even about my own club. It's about sitting down and consulting with the board and the decision makers. Our objection to the proposed summer league is that it's being run on a zonal basis. We don't object to a summer comp as such but why not make it a Premier Summer League?" said Ionnas.

"For goodness sake, it's the clubs that pay the fees that keep the federation running yet we can't even get to talk to the board. Every time we attempt to initiate a conversation with the board we get told to go through our zone representatives. If you want the truth, mate, the truth is that most clubs don't even know who their zone rep is!

"Why do we spend thousands of our dollars on consultancy fees? All the clubs are up in arms about this. It's easy for the board to say that we're not members of the federation and they don't have to meet with us yet without us and our fees there would be no federation, no board. We deserve the right to be heard and I'm sick and tired of clubs being bullied.

"All the Premier League clubs want the Premier League to be the elite league in Victoria and we will do everything we possibly can to see that that remains the case."

However, not all Premier League clubs agreed with the points made in the ultimatum delivered to FFV 10 days ago and Rendell himself expressed doubt about which clubs supported the measures outlined in the letter. "I'm not sure how many clubs were represented in the letter we received," he said.

One club against the main thrust of the letter sent to Rendell is Richmond. Club president Helmut Kalitzki was not at the controversial meeting at which the letter was drafted but he believes strongly that the rules of competition should remain in place.

"Look, all the clubs knew about this (four teams relegated) right from early in the season and that's the truth. Speak to Charlie (Farrugia) at Green Gully, speak to Western Suburbs, speak to any of them. They all knew and understood that we were going to have a 12-team competition next season so why have some clubs waited until now to try and change it?" said Kalitzki.

"Look I understand how the four clubs going down must feel but this should have been fought for before, not now."

> **"If you want the truth, mate, the truth is that most clubs don't even know who their zone rep is!**

Tonight (Monday) Premier League clubs will meet to discuss the federation's response to their letter and on Thursday a meeting has been arranged for State One clubs. Last week State Two and Three South-East clubs met at Eastern Lions and endorsed the Premier League's letter to Rendell. They also discussed a wide range of issues and have informed FFV of their views.

Some of the issues raised were: dissatisfaction concerning the tribunal set-up and a perception that some decisions do not adhere to FFV, FFA or FIFA regulations; if a club appeals a decision the appeal lodgement fee is not reimbursed even if the club wins the appeal; fining amateur players $100 for five yellow cards is "out of order"; when a player is registered there is an insurance fee of $157 and if that player transfers his new club also is charged a $157 insurance fee when the first payment should cover that player for the season; doubt about the rationale behind a summer league when we're in the midst of the longest drought in recent history which affects ground usage; and dismay that we plan to run a competition at the same time as the A–League.

A meeting of State Two and Three North-West clubs is planned as well as Provisional League clubs with the intention of organising a meeting of all clubs to thrash out a range of issues.

FFV plans to send a letter to all the clubs under its umbrella reminding them of the pathway for complaints – through the relevant standing committees – and says it welcomes feedback from them.

Aki Ionnas: Sick and tired of clubs being bullied

"We'll write to the clubs to get their views and we'll help them to understand that any concerns they have can be raised through the standing committees. We want to improve the understanding of clubs of the process involved and help them to air their grievances through appropriate channels," said Rendell.

One of the sore points with many clubs this season has been the introduction of fines for junior players who are red carded but Rendell claims that that policy is driven by FFA and will be reviewed at season's end.

"The general principle behind the policy is that a red card punishes bad behaviour and in terms of behaviour we treat juniors much like seniors. It's an edict that FFA advised us on," said Rendell.

"Up until 14 July 60 percent of junior clubs had not even received a red card and some 20 percent had received just one. Our biggest junior club is Brighton with close to 1000 participants and they were yet to receive a red card. Our second biggest club is Ashburton and they too had not received a red card.

"Some clubs with not even one-third of those participation levels have received seven or eight red cards and we need to work with those clubs to see if there is a culture that needs to be addressed. We need to help those clubs work through the process so that behaviour can be improved."

No doubt the FFV board and its CEO would dearly like to see an improvement in the behaviour of some of their detractors but while there's a feeling that perhaps the main protagonists can soon sit down and vent their spleen there remains some doubt over the outcome of any talks that may take place. The end game is not yet in sight.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

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FOXTEL CUP FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Green Gully Cavaliers	26	15	8	3	41	17	53
Melbourne Knights	25	13	10	2	46	25	49
Altona Magic	26	13	8	5	44	29	47
Heidelberg Utd	26	11	9	6	41	30	42
Richmond	26	11	7	8	57	35	40
Preston Lions	26	12	3	11	37	46	39
Oakleigh Cannons	25	10	7	8	28	23	37
A.I.S	26	10	6	10	41	35	36
South Melbourne	26	10	4	12	35	32	34
Whittlesea Zebras	26	7	9	10	31	33	30
Coburg Utd	25	8	4	13	27	39	28
Western Suburbs	26	5	7	14	23	42	22
Fawkner Blues	26	6	3	17	22	59	21
Frankston Pines	25	4	5	16	18	46	17

RESULTS

Whittlesea Zebras	1 - 0	Oakleigh Cannons
Altona Magic	4 - 0	Preston Lions
Richmond Eagles	1 - 3	AIS
Fawkner Blues	0 - 1	Green Gully Cavaliers
Melbourne Knights	5 - 2	Western Suburbs
Coburg United	0 - 2	Heidelberg United
Frankston Pines	1 - 3	South Melbourne

UNDER 21 DETAILS

Altona Magic 0 Preston Lions 0, Fawkner Blues 1 Green Gully Cavaliers 3, Frankston Pines 3 South Melbourne 1, Heidelberg Utd 2 Coburg Utd 3, Melbourne Knights 1 Western Suburbs 0, Richmond 4 V.I.S 1, Whittlesea Zebras 1 Oakleigh Cannons 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Green Gully Cavaliers	26	17	3	6	42	23	54
Richmond	25	15	1	9	51	29	46
Whittlesea Zebras	25	13	2	10	44	37	41
V.I.S	23	11	7	5	41	25	40
Oakleigh Cannons	25	11	7	7	31	22	40
Coburg Utd	24	12	3	9	40	35	39
Melbourne Knights	24	11	6	7	29	33	39
Preston Lions	22	10	7	5	31	19	37
Western Suburbs	24	10	5	9	38	29	32
Fawkner Blues	21	8	3	10	23	30	24
Altona Magic	25	7	3	15	23	38	24
Frankston Pines	25	8	2	15	19	31	20
South Melbourne	25	5	5	15	17	43	20
Heidelberg Utd	26	3	4	19	23	58	13

THE TOP MARKSMEN

Player	Matches	Goals
Cardozo, Pablo Richmond SC	22	20
Barisic, Andrew Melbourne Knights SC	23	16
Curcija, Michael Altona Magic SC	22	13
Naidovski, Jason A.I.S	13	12
Nikolic, Joel Green Gully Cavaliers	24	11
Cardozo, Richard Richmond SC	24	10
Lagana, Frankie M Oakleigh Cannons FC	22	10
Sapazovski, Johnny Preston Lions SC	25	10
Danning, Kofi D A.I.S	24	9
Karpeh, Jerry Whittlesea Zebras FC	25	9
De Moraes, Fernando South Melbourne FC	24	9
Krncevic, Jesse J Richmond SC	26	8
Catalano, Michael Richmond SC	26	7

FOXTEL FINALS FIXTURES

Week 1
QUALIFYING FINAL
Green Gully v
Melbourne Knights
KO 3pm Sun 31st Aug-
Green Gully Reserve
(Winner of Qualifying Final advances to Major Semi-Final. Loser proceeds to Minor Semi-Final)

1st ELIMINATION FINAL
Altona Magic v
Lions or Cannons
KO 7pm Sat 30th Aug
Paisley Park

2nd ELIMINATION FINAL
Heidelberg United v
Richmond Eagles
KO 3pm Sat 30th Aug
Olympic Village
(Losers of Elimination Finals are eliminated. Winners proceed to Semi-Finals)

Week 2
MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
Winner Qualifying Final
v
Highest ranked winner
of 1st & 2nd Elimination Final
(Winner of Major Semi-Final advances to Grand Final, loser proceeds to Preliminary Final)

MINOR SEMI-FINAL
Loser Qualifying Final
v
Lowest ranked winner
of 1st & 2nd Elimination Final
(Winner of Minor Semi-Final advances to Preliminary Final, loser is eliminated.)

Week 3
PRELIMINARY FINAL
Loser Major
Semi-Final
V
Winner Minor
Semi Final
(Winner of Preliminary Final advances to Grand Final, loser is eliminated)

Week 4
GRAND FINAL
Winner
Major Semi-Final
v
Winner
Preliminary Final

Please check the FFV website
for any fixture changes.

goal! Weekly

FAWKNER BLUES

0 - 1

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

GREEN MACHINE ARE TOPS!

Gully Clinches Minor Premiership

A goal from Green Gully's leading goalscorer, Joel Nikolic, after twenty minutes of play, was enough to give the Cavaliers the 2008 Victorian Foxtel Cup Minor Premiership.

The visitors started the match knowing that a win was neccessary to secure top place, and as the second placed Melbourne Knights still have a game to play against the Oakleigh Cannons this coming Wednesday, and could catch Gully if the Cavaliers dropped points at Fawkner.

The Knights were supposed to play the Oakleigh Cannons in a catch up game last Wednesday but the game was pushed forward a week, after a power failure at Knights Stadium.

With all of that in mind, there was no hesitation in pushing forward for the Minor Premiership wanna-be's. Gully's tall timber forward line, Campbell Banks and Joel Nikolic gave the Fawkner Blues defense a hard time, and when Joel Nikolic cooly volleyed a loose ball past Pasi Schwalger in the Fawkner goal early in the first half, it sent out a message to the home team, that they would have come out and play attacking football if they wanted to salvage anything from their last match before being relegated to State League One.

In the second half, the Green Gully Cavaliers looked to have closed shop, happy to sit on their one goal advantage. The Fawkner Blues threw everything at the Green Gully defense, but simply could not break it down. Fawkner Blues forward Chris Greechan came closest to scoring in the 2nd half for the home team, he managed to chip the ball over the advancing Gully goalkeeper Steven Tilovski, but Gully's Ryan Ollerton cleared the ball right off the Gully goalline. Ryan was called upon ten minutes later to again clear a goalbound Fawkner header off the goalline, Ryan Ollerton doing his first team selection in the final's series no harm whatsoever.

Man of the match, Ryan Ollerton was a definately a happy camper after the match, "After 26 rounds, it's a long season, to finish on top, it's a great feeling." When asked about his "heroic" role in saving his team from conceding any equalisers against Fawkner in the second half, Ryan played a humble response, "Usually the term hero is reserved for the forwards, in my case today, it was just a matter of being at the right place at the right time, and clearing away any danger".

In the Under 21's competition, the young Green Gully Cavaliers secured the 2008 Championship with a highly entertaining 3-1 win away to the Fawkner Blues. Seniors Coach Ian Dobson paid tribute to his Under 21's counterpart, "David (Winton) has done very well with a young squad for under 21's, in his first season at the club. With Aziz Behich and Cameron Drake in particular stepping up to the seniors from time to time, that also would have helped the youngsters."

Green Gully
Tilovski Steven, Steven Burton, Fak Dean, Kole Delev, Fleming Jeffrey, Banks Campbell, Matthew Sanders, Ollerton Ryan, Medjedovic Mile, Vargas Andy, Joel Nikolic
Goals: (Joel Nikolic 20m)

Fawkner Blues
Pasi Schwalger, Lukron Anifaloyin, Dan Rocco, Clifford Tuck, Jason Principato, Hetin Alibey, Joseph Youssef, Chris Greechan, Ben Cogger,Adam Zilic, Sebas Petrolito

Man of the Match:
Ryan Ollerton (GG)

Crowd: 400

By Markian Jaworsky

Photo by John Punshon

Matthew Sanders has Benn Cogger ducking for cover as he sends a high ball forward. Joey Youssef looks on

Joel Nikolic celebrates his 11th goal of the season

ALTONA MAGIC

4- 0

PRESTON LIONS

MAGIC IN TUNE FOR FINALS

Lions Left To Sweat For Last Spot

Preston saved one of its worst performance's since Markovski took over for the final round of the 2008 VPL season to give Altona on of its easiest victories over the Lion's in many a season.

Masi, Cergovski, Curcija and former Lions captain Sivevski were easily the best players for Altona as they tore the Preston defense to shreds in the first half.

The game had barely kicked off and the Magic were celebrating Esala Masi's 40th second goal with glee as he scored past a shell shocked static Preston defense.

Preston huffed and puffed but could not make any inroads on the Magic goal at all. Georgievski came close in the 4th minute but his shot from a freekick from 25 metres out was inches over the bar.

Cergovski came close for the Magic 4 minutes later but Acevski saved well low to his right.

Altona was pretty well in control of the game and looked the more likely to score with their purposeful running and determination.

Preston had a number of half chances but they all fell apart at the final pass.

20 minutes in Miskas should have done better when he rose high to meet a Sterjovski corner, but this chance went begging as well, as it sailed just over the bar from 8 metres out.

Masi, Fa'aroda, Curcija and in particular Cergovski were giving to much freedom by the Preston defense and the Lions could count themselves lucky to be only one goal down.

Georgievski was easily one the better players for Preston, and it was his passing that was causing some concern to Altona, and Sapazovski almost got onto something in the 21st minute from another Georgievski pass, but Jevdevic read the play well as he come out to collect the ball. Sapazovski then used his hands to control the ball as Jevdevic tried to play on and was booked for his trouble.

Altona took a step closer to putting the game beyond Preston when Recchia scored from 25 metres out unchallenged past a rooted Acevski in the Preston goal.

Preston were awarded a free kick some 35 metres from goal which Bosevski dispatched with some enthusiasm, but Jevdevic was equal to the task, to his credit Jevdevic played the ball out forward early, this caught the Preston by surprise, Acevski made a hash out of the clearance and the ball fell to Cergovski who easily converted to give Magic and unassailable 3-0 lead with 12 minutes still to play in the first half.

Things got much worse for the Lions 3 minutes later as man of the match to that point, Masi scored his second and Magic's 4th past a disarrayed Preston defense.

The second half was an exercise of holding the result from Magic's point of view and not conceding anymore from Preston's point of view. Both coach's made a number of substitutions but the game as a contest was already over.

The only worthwhile event in the second period was the sending off by the referee of Preston's volatile defender Les Anastasiou for dissent against the referees assistant over his officiating.

Preston still has a chance of making the top 6, but it no longer has its destiny in its own hands and must relay on results from outstanding games yet to be played. Preston coach Markovski has some nail biting times coming up as he waits to find out if the Lions will be playing finals football in season 2008.

Altona: Jevdevic, Recchia, Curcija, Sivevski, Sherifovski, McSorley, Cergovski, Fa'Arodo, Riccobenne, Masi, Kalmar.

Goals:Masi 2, Cergovski, Recchia

Preston: Acevski, Bosevski, Schwal, Anastasiou, Georgievski, Toleski, Sterjovski, Miskas, Kolevski, Dolevski

Man Of The Match: Esala Masi

Crowd: Unofficial 2,100

By Nome Risteski

Photo by Nome Risteski

Altona's Man of the Match Esala Masi plants one past Preston's Lou Acevski

WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS

1 - 0

OAKLEIGH CANNONS

ZEBRAS CLING ON TO HOPE

Cannons' Finals Fate Still Undecided

In a fixture played in excellent spirits, the Whittlesea Zebras defeated the Oakleigh Cannons by a solitary goal, to keep their existance in the Foxtel Cup alive.

The 1-0 win, couresy of a goal from Irishman Ryan O'Hare, allows the Zebras to position itself out of the bottom four. The weekend result sees the Whittlesea shift the pressure back on Coburg United, needing to win its postponed fixture on Thursday at SS Anderson Reserve against Frankston, to maintain its Premier League status.

As a win was important for both sides for differing reasons, the game had a cup tie feel about it. Oakleigh rested Frankie Lagana on the bench, who was the hatrick hero the last time the clubs met.. Whittlesea coach, Ivan Jolic, opted for his most attacking formation since taking over Whittlesea this season, playing a three pronged triangular attack featuring O'Hare, Karpeh and Talevski, with Pierkowski and Lombando holding the structure in the centre of the park, and Martin creating options out wide.

Oakleigh opened the contest brighly and were the better of the side for the first twenty minutes. In the 5th minute, a cross from Bill Damianos was well waited to ex-Zebra Tex Apostalikas, who saw his strike well saved by Whittlesea goalkeeper Robert Simeoni. Simeoni has been an excellent replacement in goals of late for Kenny Gerochristodoulou, and proved to be a vital reason why the Zebras received all three points.

In the twenty second minute the Zebras structure started to function and a cross from Conner Molan from the right drifted to the attacking Steve Martin, who nearly gave the Zebras the lead with a header that went wide of the Oakleigh goal, guarded by an active Adrian Cagalj.

Cagalj however was beaten after 28 minutes, when a delightful through ball by the dominant Goran Talevski, played Ryan O'Hare in and towards the penalty area, but with still much to do, O'Hare remaind composed and dribbled the ball into the penalty area, struck the ball to beat the onrushing goalkeeper, giving the Zebras what proved to be the winning goal.

From then on the Zebras were dominant and on 33 minutes should have gone further ahead. A lovely interchange of passes between Pierkowski and Karpeh and a pinpoint cross from O'Hare, reached Steve Martin once again ghosting in at the far post.

Unfortunately the finish the build up deserved was missing, as the header went wide of the target. Two other excellent chances to Karpeh before half time, saw Cagalj up to the challenge, with the striker one on one but unable to beat Oakleigh's last man.

Oakleigh, playing a counter attacking style, were awarded a free kick outside the Whittlesea penalty area, just seconds before half time. Ari Drakos took the set piece, which saw the parabola of his left footed strike, ellude the Whittlesea defensive wall, but not goalkeeper Simeoni, who parried the ball away to safety.

The second half commenced with the home side protecting its 1-0 lead. The next twenty minutes proved to be rather even, with the game ready to open up, considering the Cannons required a result to play finals football, knowing that Preston was losing to Altona, across town.

In the 83rd minutes, Oakleigh looked to have equalised twice, within a minute. The first chance feel to substitute Lagana, after some neat Oakleigh build up play saw a well weighted cross fall within the six yard box. The proceeding goal mouth scramble, concluded with Zebras stalward Steve Martin, clearing the ball off the line. As the ball was cleared, an Oakleigh's midfielder, played Tex Aposalikas right through, one on one with Zebra's keeper Simeoni, and in a match defining moment, saved the strike and collected the rebound, to basically secure all three points for the Whittlesea Zebras.

Goran Talevski, one of the best players on the park, probably should have put the game beyond doubt in the 87th minute. Talevski received the ball on the half way line, and made a V-line run at the Oakleigh defense, beating two players, but unfortunately putting the ball wide of an outrushing Adrian Cagalj, who closed the angle on goal.

As the final whisle echoed through Epping Stadium, the Zebras received confirmation of Coburg's defeat to Heidelberg, their second defeat this week. Ultimately the relegation battle will go down to the wire and Frankston, under Doug Hodgson, will be no push overs and can still leave their mark on the Foxtel Cup 2008.

Oakleigh's Felix Rossman contests the aerial duel with Zebras' Ross Antoniadis

Match details:

Zebras;
R.Simioni, C,Molan, M.Vazzochi, J.Angelovski, R.Antoniadis, D.Piorkowski, S.Martin, G.Lombardo (M.Pistininzi 90'), G.Talevski, J.Karpeh (A.Colosimo 88'), R.O'Hare (A.Vulic 88').

Goals: O'Hare 28'.

Yellow cards: Martin 52'.
Red cards: None

Cannons:
A,Cagalj, A.Ewin, M.Foshini, F.Rosman, S.Drakos, T.Apostolikas, J,Nilo, T.Waterson, B.Vassallo (F.Lagana 68'), B.Damianos, A.Drakos.

Goals: None
Yellow cards: S.Drakos 63', Lagana 75'.
Red cards: None

Crowd: 200
Venue: Epping Stadium

Ivan Jolic and Stuart Munro will have to wait a few more days until they know their club's fate

By Frank Carbone

Photos by Daniel Flis

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HEIDELBERG UNITED

2 - 0

COBURG UNITED

HEIDELBERG WIN SEALS FINALS BERTH

Coburg In Fight For Its VPL Life

Two second half goals by Heidelberg has seen it clinch fourth spot in the run-up to this year's Foxtel Cup Finals series. The 2-0 result also means that Coburg needs all three points from its catch-up game against bottom-placed Frankston next week to ensure its top flight status next year.

Today's game was played on a heavy Olympic Village pitch between two sides needing maximum points from the match – Heidelberg looking to confirm its place in the final top six & Coburg seeking to haul itself away from the relegation zone.

With the game just two minutes in, a strong counter-attacking run by Heidelberg's Denis Alilovic saw him play a pass to Aleksovski, whose shot was well parried clear by Kovar in the Coburg goals. Just five minutes later, Coburg's first meaningful foray forward resulted in a Magnacca shot sprayed wide following neat lead-up play by Lazarevski.

With Heidelberg getting into their rhythm & beginning to exert pressure on Coburg on both flanks, a Gasparis pass to Drossos on the left saw the wing-back float a deep cross across the goals, only for Ouliaris to jab the ball inches wide in the 20th minute. Shortly before the half hour mark, referee Perry Mur waved away Heidelberg claims for a penalty kick after Groenewald went down in a challenge after a through ball by Alilovic.

As the first half drew on, Thompson & Beni for Coburg were both working overtime to get a stranglehold in the middle of the park. Former 'Berger Andy Vlahos shot wide from a good position & following a strong run, Beni almost snuck in a shot on the near post late in the first half. Vlahos' first touch let him down following a corner, when he was found unmarked & in a great position to strike. However, Gavalas was able to fist the ball to safety after Vlahos failed to control the through pass. The half came to a close with no score to either side, as officials from both clubs eagerly awaited news from other games to come through.

The second period saw both sides press for the decisive piece of play that would break the deadlock. Play fluctuated from end to end, with first Groenewald well tackled by Baser just as he seemed poised to strike on goal – then Coburg's Vlahos had a low shot well held by Gavalas, after Coburg's best move of the match which involved Josifovski, Tichy & Vlahos. Graham Hockless' influence on the game was now becoming apparent, as the diminutive midfielder's poise & vision started to carve out opportunities. It was Hockless who almost opened the scoring midway through the second half, following a series of passes from Drossos to Alilovic & Aleksovski put Hockless clear on goal, only for his shot to miss narrowly from just outside the box.

Shortly after Heidelberg made a double substitution, Ouliaris missed a golden opportunity by blasting well over from close range following a long throw by Hockless. Just minutes later, Vassiliadis made no mistake following another long throw. The 'Berger veteran volleyed home from an angle past Kovar's outstretched dive to give Heidelberg the lead. Vassiliadis might have made it 2-0 with a few minutes to go after Gasparis was able to get in behind the Coburg defence & play in a ball across the box, but Vassiliadis totally mistimed the shot to give Coburg one last reprieve.

The second goal came in stoppage time after Vlahos had won a corner for Coburg. With the visitors pushing men forward in hope of a dramatic late equaliser, the ball was scrambled loose to Heidelberg's Mark Tsiorlas. The striker made a powerful run & spotted an unmarked Graham Hockless. The midfielder, who had timed his run perfectly, maintained his composure superbly to rifle home his shot from 15 metres into the roof of the net, giving his side a 2-0 lead and all three points after a hard-fought & physical encounter.

Finals Bound:The Bergers congratulate Graham Hockless on scoring the second goal

Heidelberg's Mark Tsiorlas protects the ball from Coburg's Turhan Surbull

Heidelberg United 2 (Vassiliadis 73', Hockless 90'+) defeated Coburg United 0

Man of the Match: Graham Hockless (Heidelberg United)

Crowd: 500

Team Line-Ups:

Heidelberg United: Gavalas; Vassiliadis, Jones, Stefanou, Drossos; Aleksovski (Reid 69'), Hockless, Ouliaris, Gasparis; Alilovic (Ameti 78'), Groenewald (Tsiorlas 69')

Coburg United: Kovar; Kovacevic, Baser, Pir, Nastevski; Tichy, Beni, Thompson (Josifovski 46'), Magnacca (Subul 82'); Vlahos, Lazarevski (Mustafa 72')

By John Fotinos

Photo by Brett Robinson

RICHMOND EAGLES

1 - 3

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT

AIS PASSES FINAL EXAM WITH HONOURS

Eagles Prepare For First Ever finals

The final home and away game of the season at Kevin Bartlett Reserve saw Richmond host the A.I.S. knowing a win would seal fourth place on the table and clinch a finals berth.

Any other result could leave their finals hopes resting on the outcomes of the games involving Heidelberg United, Preston Lions and Oakleigh Cannons. For the Institute, their second season in the Foxtel Cup had brought about another solid midtable finish.

The home side could not have got off to a better start, taking the lead after fifty-five seconds. A backheel from Pablo Cardozo allowed Dimitri Tsiaras to cut into the box, the Eagles midfielder finding Jesse Krncevic on his outside to the right. Krncevic took a touch before striking the ball beyond Seb Mattei and inside the far post from twelve yards out.

Richmond had the ball in the back of the net once again two minutes later, but Cardozo was ruled offside when Krncevic chipped the ball over the A.I.S. defence for him. After twelve minutes a free-kick from Michael Catalano on the right saw Tsiaras head over tha bar at the far post. The momentum was all with Richmond, and after twenty minutes Cardozo fired just over the bar with a dipping strike from thirty yards.

The course of the game changed dramatically three minutes later. Casual defending saw a corner kick bounce through a group of players at the near post, the ball falling to Daniel Bowles who slammed it home from near the penalty spot. Four minutes later Rhyan Grant shot wide from twenty-five yards when Marco Kuck's headed clearance fell to him.

Richmond appeared sluggish and lethargic, whilst the A.I.S. took great heart from their equaliser and began to gain the upper hand. Kuck was booked in the forty-first minute. Then two minutes before the break a cross took a deflection and fell to Grant, who's shot was also deflected, looping over Stuart Webster to give the visitors the lead.

When play resumed Richmond began showing some purpose, realising their season could be on the line. In the forty-seventh minute Catalano made a good run down the left and sent in a well flighted cross, but the Eagles were lacking the bodies in the box to take advantage. Two minutes later a flick from George Goutzioulis released Krncevic on the edge of the box, but he was unable to get around Bowles.

The fifty-fourth minute saw Matt Theodore shoot wide after Matt Mullen had laid the ball back to him after receiving a cross from Sam Gallaway. A quiet spell followed, before another Richmond rally in the middle of the half. Cardozo put two free-kicks over the crossbar in successive minutes. In the seventy-fifth minute Krnecvic tried flicking a ball to Catalano, his follow up tackle ensuring the ball reached its target. Catalano dribbled into the box, eventually getting a shot away which was blocked, Krncevic's effort from the rebound also blocked, this time for a corner.

Richmond were caught out pushing too many men forward for a set-piece four minutes later. When the ball was laid back to Noel Bahnsen his failure to knock the ball back into the penalty area saw the ball won by the A.I.S. and played to Alex Sunasky in the centre circle. Richmond's only covering player Zoran Cvetkovski grabbed at his arm, but referee Phil Taverna played advantage as Sunasky slipped away. Carrying the ball to the edge of the area and with only Webster, he blazed a shot high and wide.

With seven minutes remaining a stong surge forward down the left from substitute Nick Kalambokis was matched by a superb cross which Cardozo headed over the bar from nine yards out. A minute later Richmond were caught out with too many men committed forward once again. On this occassion it was A.I.S. substitute Michael Debono left facing Webster, and he made no mistake to seal the game for the vistors from Canberra.

With the final score settled at 1-3 five minutes later, Richmond's finals berth was only confirmed when the results from other games had filtered through. The win saw the A.I.S. take eighth place on the final table, just one win from reaching the finals and a comfortable two games clear of relegation. Richmond secured a first ever finals date with a game at Heidelberg United next week.

Richmond: S.Webster, S.Rexhepi (N.Kalambokis 74'), S.McCluskey, D.Tsiaras, J.Krncevic, G.Goutzioulis (J.Latinopoulos 88'), P.Cardozo, M.Catalano, Z.Cvetkovski (A.Viola 82'), N.Bahnsen, M.Kuck.

Goal: Krncevic 2'

Yellow Cards: Kuck 41' Cvetkovski 79'

Red Cards: None

A.I.S.: S.Mattei, T.Anderson, D.Bowles, S.Gallaway, H.Fondyke (A.Cicak 52'), R.Grant, A.Sunasky, K.Danning, B.Obradovic (M.Debono 65'), M.Mullen, M.Theodore.

Goals: Bowles 23' Grant 43' Debono 85'

Yellow Cards: None

Red Cards: None

Man of the Match: Daniel Bowles (A.I.S.)

Venue: Kevin Bartett Reserve
Crowd: 100

By Mark Boric

Photos by Peter Kakalias

Richmond's Michael Catalano gives chase to his AIS counterpart

Richmond's DimiTsiaras closes in to thwart Matt Theodore's (No 7) pass

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FRANKSTON PINES

1 - 3

SOUTH MELBOURNE

SOUTH FINISHES SEASON ON A HIGH

Pines Look To The Future

South Melbourne has ended its season on a winning note after defeating bottom placed Frankston Pines 3-1 at Monterey reserve on Sunday.

A second-half brace by Fernando de Moraes and a late goal by Gianni De Nittiis ensured that South Melbourne finishes clear of the relegation zone, after hovering precariously close at various times during the course of season 2008.

In an entertaining match where play swung from end to end, South Melbourne had the bulk of the chances during the course of the afternoon, but where quite wasteful in front of goals. The Blue and White forwards guilty of letting Pines off the hook, time and time again.

In fact, it was Pines who opened the scoring shortly after the break when a smashing strike by Craig Smart flew into the top hand corner of the net and give the home side an unlikely lead.

It was long however when South Melbourne's pressure soon paid off and deservedly equilised through de Moraes.

The Brazilian continued to torment the Pines defence and again found the back of the net when some neat play resulted in the visitors hitting the lead.

De Nittis put the game beyond doubt when he was on hand to tap in a rebound after a shot was saved by the keeper.

After the match Pines coach Doug Hodgson was disappointed with the result, "Overall, I thought the performance of our boys was disappointing. Without making excuses it was hard coming in halfway through the season. It's a case of looking towards next year for us. We've got the facilities to be a Premier League club, but realistically we've got to look at the infrastructure and see if we can bounce back and really compete at this level. There's no doubt there's potential down here on the peninsula and we've got to try and become the place to be for the kids in the area."

Frankston now faces Coburg United on Wednesday night to complete its Foxtel Cup fixture list in a match that now holds the answers to finalizing the remaining relegation spot.

Whittlesea Zebras managed to haul themselves out of the bottom four with a hard fought 1-0 win over finals chasing Oakleigh Cannons and now await on the outcome of Frankston's match with Coburg to determine if they maintain Foxtel Cup status.

By Gordon Bennett

Photo by Darryl Kennedy

Action between South Melbourne and Frankston Pines yesterday

South Melbourne's Seb Petrovic steams through the middle of Monterey Reserve yesterday. Frankston Pines coach Doug Hodgson looks on from the background.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

5 - 2

WESTERN SUBURBS

FIVE STAR KNIGHTS SPANK SUBURBS

Knights Secure Second Spot, Suburbs Down

The Melbourne Knights proved to strong for lowly Western Suburbs, recording a convincing and dominate 5-2 victory at Knights Stadium on Sunday Evening.

The signs look ominous right from the start, as Mathew Grbesa could have put the Knight's a goal up within the opening minutes shooting over the bar from close range.

The front duo of Andrew Barisic and Joe Spiteri caused headaches for the Suburbs defence, and they combined well in the fifth minute when Spiteri fed Barisic into the box, Stepjan Gal was on hand to save Barisic's effort and had his defender to thank who cleared off the line from Adrian Zahra's follow up.

The Knight were not to be denied a third time however, this time Barisic finding Spiteri with space inside the box, the veteran striker keeping his cool to slot the ball past an advancing Gal and giving the Knights an eighth minute lead.

Hatziomoritis latched onto a through ball from Kharpko and beat the offside trap, but before the midfielder could test out the Knight's goalkeeper, Iosifidis and Grbesa tracked back and teamed up to clear the danger.

Barisic had the chance to get on the scoresheet in the 22nd minute, after Spiteri chipped the ball over a stagnant Suburb's defence, but with only the keeper to beat Barisic effort was high and wide.

Adrian Zahra worked tirelessly on the right flank, winning possession the youngster beat two markers before directed his attempt straight into the keeper's arms. Minutes later the Knights had a good shout for a penalty turned down for a handball, but it was the Western Suburbs who could have scored at the other end.

Terry Antoniadis rose highest in a crowed box to head his effort onto the bar and agonisingly wide for the Suburbs. Things got from bad to worse for the visitors as the Knight's punished them on the counter. Barisic this time making no mistake lobbing the advancing Gal, and giving the Knights a two goal buffer.

The Knights sealed the points on the stoke of half-time with Spiteri again finding time and space inside the box and finding the bottom corner to give the Knights a three goal cushion going into the break.

If there was any doubt in the result, it was quickly rubbed out as some good work from Grbesa and Cumming set up Spiteri for his hat-trick, tapping in from close range in the 55th minute to make to 4-0.

To the Suburb's credit they did not drop their heads; they earned their first corner of the game and were rewarded with a goal as Sianidis volleyed home to pull it back to 4-1.

The Knights did regain their four goal advantage in the 80th minute. Substitute Muriqi's corner was met by Barisic who headed home from close range for yet another brace.

Barisic almost completed his hat-trick a minute latter, his drive from 25 yards was only partially saved by Gal who watched agonisingly as the ball bounced just wide.

The visitors restored some pride to the scoreboard with a well worked play late in the game, Damianou fed Hatziomoritis whose effort was parried by Loncaric, but Vas Kalogeracos was on hand to apply the finishing touches from close range. The final score finishing at 5-2

The Knights play a catch up game against Oakleigh Cannons on Tuesday night, but with nothing to play the Knights could rest key players in the lead up to the finals next week where they will meet Green Gully. Western Suburbs finish the season in 12th position and in the relegation zone. However with no confirmation as to the relegation system they could yet still be competing in the Foxtel cup next season.

MATCH STATS:
SHOTS: MK 19 WS 6
TARGET: 7 WS 4
CORNERS: MK 5 WS 2

Melbourne Knights Line Up: Loncaric, Iosifidis, Grbesa, Cumming, Elvin, Timmons, Franjic (Muriqi), Watson (Thompson), Zahra, Spiteri (Matkovic), Barisic.

Not Used: Ozdemir, Kiratzoglou.

Yellows: None

Goals: Spiteri 8', 40', 55, Barisic 32', 80'.

Western Suburbs Line Up: Gal, Tsonis, Kindter, Cetkin, Sianidis, I.Razov, Kharpko, Cvetanovski (Damianou), T.Razov (Kalogeracos), Hatziomoritis, Antoniadis.

Not Used: Bosnjak, Tolios, Petrovski

Yellows: I.Razov, Sianidis.

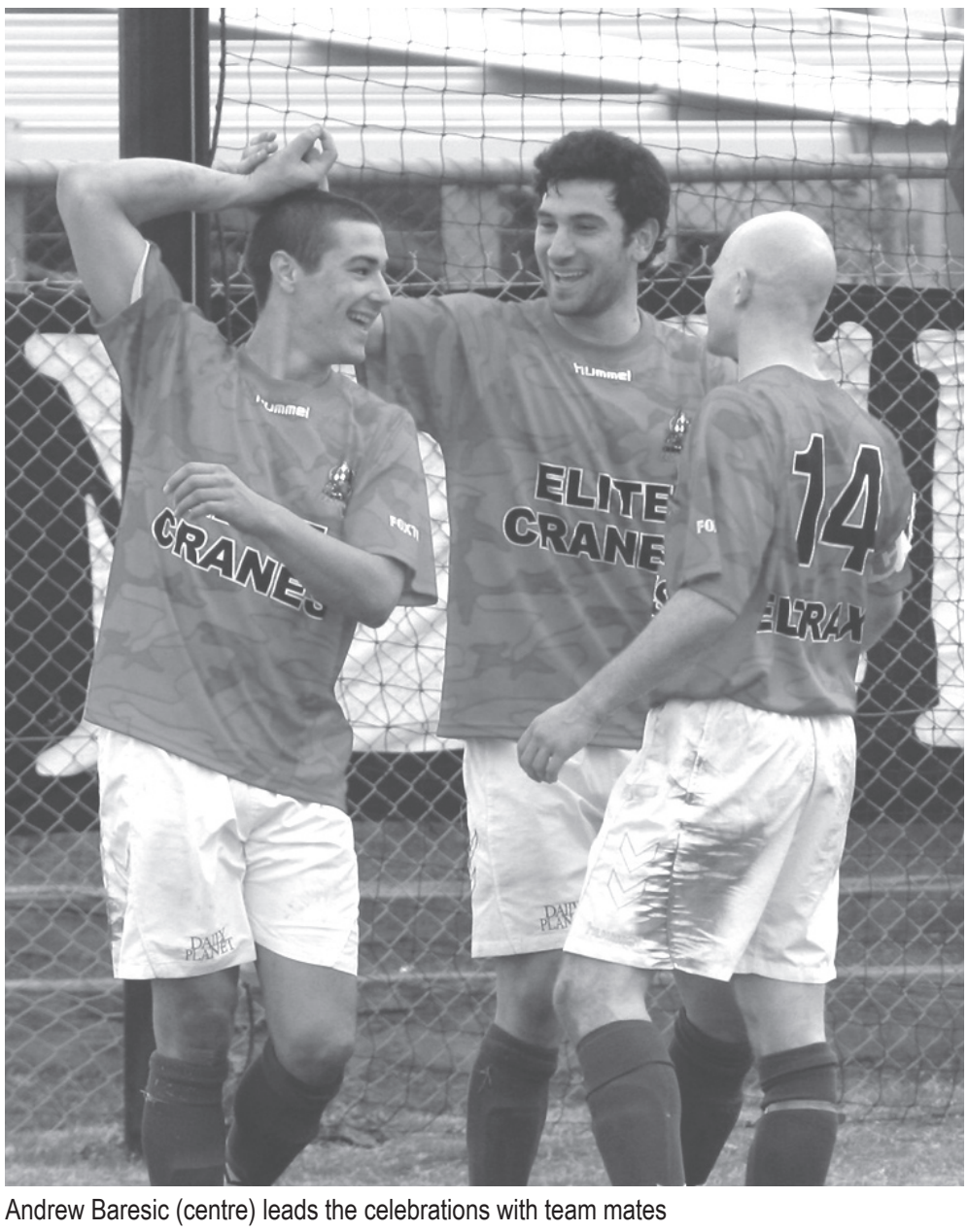
Goals: Sianidis 67', Kalogeracos 83'.

Man Of Match: Joe Spiteri (MK)

Crowd: 500 @ Knights Stadium.

By Andrew Fisher

Photos by Steve Starek



Andrew Baresic (centre) leads the celebrations with team mates Craig Elvin and Anthony Pelikan

Joe Spiteri jets the Knights into second place in the Foxtel Cup

Round Twenty

FINALS FEVER HITS WPL

Showdowns Set As Inter Takes A Break

The home and away season of the WPL wrapped up this weekend, with Box Hill Inter already guaranteed the minor premiership. There was still plenty of jostling for positions in the top five, with two teams still battling it out for one remaining place in the finals series. There were final round wins for Box Hill, Casey, Preston and Keilor, while Heidelberg and Bendigo shared the points.

Round 22 has the added bonus of featuring a potential Grand Final preview, as the top two sides in the competition met at Ashburton Park. Box Hill Inter emerged victorious over Ashburton, and has so defeated the second –placed team in both meetings between the sides in the league this season. Box Hill took a narrow lead into the half time break, thanks to an Amanda Lawless goal, and although the second half finished all square, with goals from Ashburton's Kelly Sandefur and Inter's Tal Karp, it was the visiting side who took all three points. Inter finishes the season eight points clear at the top of the ladder, and now enjoys a rest for the first week of the finals. Ashburton will draw strength from its season, during which, like Inter, it only lost two matches, as it begins its finals campaign next weekend against Preston.

After looking a cast iron certainty for much of the season to feature in the finals, Sandringham's poor late season form has ultimately cost it dear, as defeat at Comets Stadium left it sixth on the ladder. Casey Comets scored once in each half, through Leigh Terek and Talia Silivestros, while Sandringham could only find the net once, with Mieta MacDonald on target in the second half. The victory was Casey's sixth of the season, and enables it to end the season seventh on the ladder. The result has more significant repercussions for Sandringham, which ends the season level on points with fifth-placed Eltham, but out of the finals due to its inferior goal difference. With just three wins in the second half of the season, Sandringham let a strong position slip and it will be left to rue its dip in form as it now begins its off-season break.

A strong second-half display wrapped up victory for Preston Lions over Eltham North at BT Connor Reserve, and will have led to nervous times for those involved Eltham while they waited to hear the Sandringham result and whether they had made the finals. The first half was an even affair, with both sides scoring once, but two goals without reply in the second half secured the victory for the home side. Sarah Sumner scored twice for Preston, with Ashleigh Kelly adding the other, while Enza Barilla was on target for Eltham. Preston ensured that they finished third on the ladder, an important achievement as it gives them a double chance in the finals. Eltham makes it into the finals by the skin of its teeth, relying on goal difference to give the edge over Sandringham.

A close encounter between Preston's Dian Piculovska (right) and Eltham North's Sarah Gooney in the final round of the WPL campaign, in defeat, as it went down 2-1 in a tight match to Keilor Park at Latrobe City Sports Club. GSL looked well placed at half time to pick up at least a point for the first time since Round 13, with the scores locked a 1-1. Laura Croft was on target for the home side, and Lauren Farrugia scored for Keilor. However, it was not to be for the regional side, as Lauren Farrugia scored a second for Keilor after the interval to give the visiting side its fifth win of the season and lift it above South into ninth on the ladder. GSL ends the season in eleventh, and will return to State League 1 after one season in the top flight.

GSL's final game ended in a similar fashion to much of the rest of its WPL

If Heidelberg United is to retain its WPL title it will have to go the long way about doing it, after it finished the season with a 1-1 draw against Bendigo Vipers at Moama Sports Club. The result means that United finishes the season fourth on the ladder, and so will have to win two knockout matches if it is to reach the Grand Final for the third successive year. Melanie Camilleri gave the visiting side a one goal lead going into the half time break, but Emily Leversha pulled Bendigo level in the second half. It was a positive end to the season for Bendigo, which had suffered heavy defeats in its last three matches, and it finishes the season in eighth place.

Next weekend is the first round of the finals series, and the matches take on an added intensity. Box Hill Inter, as minor premier, benefits from a week off, as its potential opponents battle it out on the field. Ashburton and Preston Lions will meet for the right to play Box Hill for the quickest passage to the Grand Final. The loser of that encounter then meets the winner of the knockout game between Heidelberg United and Eltham North. Details of when and where the games will take place will be revealed during the week.

Katrina Smith (Eltham North) slips at the vital moment as Paula Massouh races goalward

By Niki Cook

Photos by John Punshon

WPL ROUND 20 RESULTS

Ashburton 1 (K Sandefur) Box Hill Inter 2 (A Lawless T Karp), Casey Comets 2 (L Terek T Silivestros) Sandringham 1 (M McDonald), Preston Lions 3 (S Sumner 2 A Kelly) Eltham North 1 (E Barilla), GSL 1 (L Croft) Keilor Park 2 (L Farrugia 2), Bendigo Vipers 1 (E Leversha) Heidelberg Utd 1 (M Camilleri)

WPL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
BBox Hill Inter	20	16	2	2	57	13	50
Ashburton	20	12	6	2	43	19	42
Preston Lions	20	13	0	7	30	24	39
Heidelberg Utd	20	11	3	6	53	28	36
Eltham North	20	10	2	8	46	31	32
Sandringham	20	9	5	6	24	21	32
Casey Comets	20	6	3	11	29	36	21
Bendigo Vipers	20	5	6	9	13	35	21
Keilor Park	20	5	4	11	32	47	19
South Melbourne	20	5	2	13	32	45	17
GSL	20	1	1	18	16	76	4

FINALS FIXTURES

Qualifying Final
Ashburton v Pretson Lions
KO 3pm Sun 31 Aug
Ashburton Park

(Winner of Qualifying Final advances to Major Semi-Final. Loser proceeds to Minor Semi-Final)

Elimination Final
Heidelberg United v Eltham North
KO 12pm Sat 30 Aug
Olympic Village
(Loser of Elimination Final is eliminated. Winner will proceed to Minor Semi-Final)

***Matches to be played at home team's ground.**

WPL RESERVES RESULTS

Ashburton 1 Box Hill Inter 1, Casey Comets 0 Sandringham 2, Preston Lions 0 Eltham North 0, GSL 4 Keilor Park 0, Bendigo Vipers 0 Heidelberg Utd 1

WPL RESERVES STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Ashburton	20	17	2	1	71	12	53
Box Hill Inter	20	16	3	1	57	15	51
Sandringham	20	13	2	5	66	25	41
Heidelberg Utd	20	10	7	3	36	21	35
Keilor Park	20	8	5	7	36	29	28
Casey Comets	20	7	3	10	34	46	24
Bendigo Vipers	20	7	1	12	29	37	22
GSL	20	4	4	12	18	46	16
Preston Lions	20	2	6	12	20	51	12
Eltham North	20	2	6	12	13	50	12
South Melbourne	20	3	3	14	27	75	11

GUNNERS CRASH AT COTTAGE

Hoffenheim Fly High, Marseille Grieves Fans

European league championships are won and lost over grueling seasons in which every match counts. This weekend was no different as clubs from the English, Scottish, German and French leagues fought out their on-field battles in the search for glory.

Goal! Weekly reporter Julius Ross checks out the pick of the action in Europe.

WHO THE HELL IS HANGELAND?

London was the scene for little-known Norwegian defender Brede Hangeland to claim his 15 minutes of fame, as he became a Craven Cottage hero after his goal gave **Fulham** a famous victory over **Arsenal** in the Barclays Premier League.

Bouncing back from their opening weekend defeat at the hands of Hull City, Fulham held on against sustained pressure from Arsene Wenger's side to record a remarkable victory.

Title hopefuls Arsenal dominated play and possession, but a re-occurring theme – the failure to turn dominance into goals – proved yet again Arsenal's downfall.

Accumulating a total of 20 shots, the Gunners managed just one shot on target.

Another title hopeful, **Liverpool**, almost suffered a shock loss in similar fashion to the Gunners, but two late goals from Merseyside favourites denied **Middlesborough** a first win at Anfield since 1976.

Boro striker Mido came off the bench to give the away side a 1-0 lead with 20 minutes remaining, but Liverpool's local hero Jamie Carragher had a long-range effort fortuitously deflect in off Emanuel Pogatetz to put the Reds back on level terms with five minutes remaining.

Then Merseyside golden-boy and Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard did what he does best, rifling home a sweet shot in stoppage time to maintain their 100% record and resign Boro to defeat.

In the north of England, injury-prone and inconsistent England striker Michael Owen continued to show he is not yet past his prime as he killed off **Bolton's** hopes of snatching a point in their clash at St James' Park.

Owen, who came on as a substitute for Obafemi Martins, showed glimpses of his best ability and that he still has the goal-scoring knack needed to knock off stubborn opposition, with a smart header in the 71st minute.

Bolton's Kevin Nolan had a nightmare in front of goal, having a penalty saved by Shay Given and then heading a glorious late chance wide of the **Newcastle** net in an attempt to claim a point from the

Brede Hangeland, seen here in action in February 2008, inflicted a significant early dent in Arsenal´s title hopes as his goal earned Fulham a surprise 1-0 win on Saturday.

Magpies.

Stoke City were on the right end of a dramatic five goal thriller against **Aston Villa**, the newly promoted side picking up their first victory in this season's campaign with a 3-2 win.

Tony Pulis' side, favourites to head straight back down to the Championship next season, played a direct and pulsating style against the Villans and it proved beneficial in an exciting encounter at the Britannia Stadium.

Elsewhere, on loan striker Djibril Cisse gave Roy Keane's **Sunderland** a shock 2-1 away win over miserable **Tottenham Hotspur** at White Hart Lane.

Cisse – signed from Marseille this week – knocked in a late winner to make for a warm welcome back to the Premiership, the ex-Liverpool man getting the perfect start in his debut for Sunderland.

Everton made hard work of their first victory of the season against **West Brom**, the injury-strapped Toffees scrapping through with a 2-1 victory courtesy of Leon Osman and Ayegbeni Yakubu strikes.

Blackburn and **Hull City** remain unbeaten as they shared the spoils in an entertaining 1-1 draw at Edwood park.

FAMILIAR TWO HORSE RACE

A familiar pattern has already emerged in the race for the Scottish Premier League title, with both **Celtic** and **Rangers** sitting top of the table after only three matches played.

The Old Firm rivals are the only Scottish sides to have won the SPL title since the league's inauguration in 1998, and the trophy already looks to be heading to Glasgow once more.

Celtic are looking to add to their six titles, whilst Rangers will want to close the widening gap between themselves and Celtic by claiming their fifth trophy this campaign.

Celtic, the current champions, went top of the league this weekend when Greek striker Giorgos Samaras netted a brace and Stephen McManus headed home from a Shunsuke Nakamura set-piece to seal a 3-0 win for the Hoops.

Rangers failed to overtake Celtic on the overall standings after they stumbled to 1-1 draw at **Aberdeen**, the Gers bitterly disappointed at not claiming the three points after a seemingly legitimate goal was ruled out for offside late in the game.

Other results: Hearts 2-1 St Mirren; Inverness Caledonian Thistle 1-1 Hibernian; Motherwell 1-1 Dundee United; Kilmarnock 1-0 Hamilton Academical.

MUNICH MANAGE MEAGRE DRAW

German midfielder Tim Borowski saved German Champion **Bayern Munich's** blushes after coming off the bench to grab an equaliser 16 minutes from time against **Borussia Dortmund** in Saturaday's Bundesliga action.

Juergen Klinsmann's side had seen the match go from bad to worse as they conceded a goal in the opening 10 minutes and then had Dutch midfielder Mark van Bommel sent-off in the 23rd minute.

But the introduction of Tim Borowski off the bench paid dividends for Klinsmann's side as they managed a second draw of the season.

Hoffenheim´s defender Isaac Vorsah, defender Matthias Jaissle and striker Demba Ba celebrate after their Bundesliga football match against Borussia Moenchengladbach at the Carl-Benz stadium in Mannheim, southwestern Germany. Hoffenheim won the match 1-0.

The German champions have struggled to impose themselves on the new campaign, picking up just two points from a possible six, and they currently sit 11th on the Bundesliga table.

Newly promoted side **Hoffenheim** retained their unfancied position at the top of the standings, after making it two wins from two with a 1-0 victory over **Borussia Moenchengladbach.**

Hoffenheim's Bosnian forward Vedad Ibisevic scored the winner and his second goal of the season in the 31st minute.

TRAUMATIC FRENCH FIXTURE

Olympique Marseille ended a grief-stricken day on a successful note in French Ligue 1, with a 1-0 away victory over **Le Harve.**

The importance of the match between the two sides had been overshadowed after an accident 70 km south of Paris in which a coach crash killed two Marseille fans.

French Ligue 1 organisers were caught in two minds whether or not to call off the match, but decided to give it the go-ahead "in memory of the victims."

Although Marseille were far from their best, Boudewijn Zeden's fantastic free-kick was enough to hand the side from southern France maximum points.

Le Mans also recorded a 1-0 victory on the third weekend of French fixtures, with Thorstein Helstad grabbing the only goal of the game as the home side struggled past a determined threat from visitors **St Etienne.**

The win sends Le Mans to third on the French standings, with Helstad's 38th minute strike just enough in a hard fought match in which St Etienne frustrated the home side throughout.

Monaco's defender Jerko Leko put the ball in the back of his own net 16 minutes from time, to hand **Caen** a point in their clash at the Stade Louis II stadium in Monte Carlo.

Monaco dominated the match in which they really should have taken all three points, with 19 year-old Frederick Nimani netting Monaco's only goal after 51 minutes.

The home side missed numerous chances to extend their lead, before Leko disastrously headed in at the wrong end to gift a point to away side they had frequently dominated over the 90 minutes.

Reigning French champions **Lyon,** who are looking for a 8th successive title, remain unbeaten and sit equal first on the Ligue 1 table after French starlet Karim Benzema and Jean Makoun gave the home side a comfortable 2-0 victory over **Grenoble.**

By Julius Ross

Photos by Soccer Way

EPL RESULTS

West Bromwich Albion 1 - 2 Everton
Newcastle United 1 - 0 Bolton W
Blackburn Rovers 1 - 1 Hull City
Tottenham Hotspur 1 - 2 Sunderland
Liverpool 2 - 1 Middlesbrough
Fulham 1 - 0 Arsenal
Stoke City 3 - 2 Aston Villa

	P	PTS
1 Liverpool	2	6
2 Blackburn	2	4
3 Hull	2	4
4 Newcastle	2	4
5 Chelsea	1	3
6 Aston Villa	2	3
7 Bolton	2	3

BUNDESLIGA RESULTS

Hannover 96 0 - 0 FC Energie Cottbus
Borussia Dortmund 1 - 1 B München
VfB Stuttgart 0 - 2 Bayer 04 Leverkusen
Hertha BSC Berlin 1 - 1 Arminia Bielefeld
Hamburger SV 2 - 1 Karlsruher SC
TSG Hoffenheim 1 - 0 Borussia Mönch
SV Werder Bremen 1 - 1 FC Schalke 04

	P	PTS
1 TSG Hoffenheim	2	6
2 Schalke 04	2	4
3 Hertha Berlin	2	4
4 Borussia Dortmund	2	4
5 Hamburg	2	4
6 Bayer Leverkusen	2	3
7 Wolfsburg	1	1

SPL RESULTS

Aberdeen 1 - 1 Glasgow Rangers
Motherwell 1 - 1 Dundee United
Heart of Midlothian 2 - 1 Saint Mirren
Kilmarnock 1 - 0 Hamilton Academicals
Celtic FC 3 - 0 Falkirk FC
Inverness CT 1 - 1 Hibernian

	P	PTS
1 Celtic	3	7
2 Rangers	3	7
3 Kilmarnock	3	7
4 Hamilton	3	6
5 Hearts	3	6
6 Inverness CT	3	4
7 Hibernian	3	4

LIGUE 1 RESULTS

Valenciennes 3 - 1 FC Lorient
AS Monaco 1 - 1 SM Caen
Le Havre 0 - 1 Olympique de Marseille
FC Sochaux 1 - 1 Paris Saint Germain
AS Nancy Lorraine 0 - 0 Toulouse
Le Mans UC 72 1 - 0 AS Saint Étienne
Olympique Lyonnais 2 - 0 Grenoble

	P	PTS
1 Marseille	3	7
2 Lyon	3	7
3 Le Mans	3	6
4 Valenciennes	3	6
5 Grenoble	3	6
6 Monaco	3	5
7 Caen	3	4

CHAMPAGNE ON ICE!

O'Dell's Men Look Odds On To Return To VPL

A 1-1 draw in the eagerly anticipated round twenty local derby between the second and third-placed Dandenong and Southern Stars, respectively, has ensured Sunshine have all but locked in first place on the ladder with two rounds remaining.

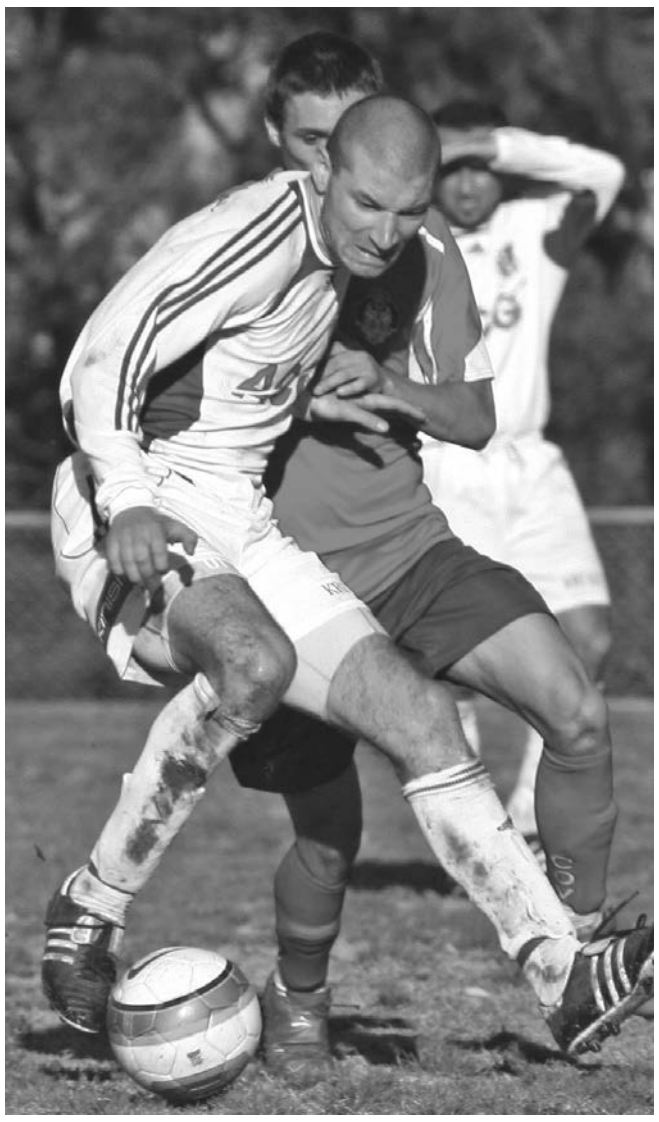
Neither the Thunder nor the Stars could make an impact in the first half of Saturday night's match at George Andrews Reserve, with both sides hardly troubling the opposition goal until after the break. It was then that the first breakthrough came, first Veton Korcarevski for the hosts, before the ever-reliable Sercan Doganay brought the match back to level terms. The single point sees the Thunder maintain their three point buffer between the third-placed Stars, who need a great amount of luck to move into contention for a promotion place for the Foxtel Cup next season.

The Georgies tightened their grip on the State League Division One title with a 3-1 victory over Kingston City at The Grange Reserve on Friday night. The last-placed City kept pace admirably in the first half, with Jasmin Limic's equaliser cancelling out Nick Harrhy's earlier goal for the ladder leaders. After the half time break though, the Georgies managed to break clear, scoring twice; once through Wayne Wallace and again via Harrhy. To rub salt into Kingston's wounds, the win not only secured Sunshine promotion, but it also served another reminder of the polar opposite seasons of these two former Foxtel Cup teams, with City seemingly destined for relegation again this season.

However, Kingston being relegated depends on results, with Langwarrin apparently safe from the drop after defeating fellow cellar-dwellers Keilor Park 2-0 at Keilor Park Reserve on Saturday. A scoreless first half did nothing to inspire confidence in either sides' attacking capabilities, though in the second half Caleb Nicholes showed his class, scoring two goals to take his season tally to eleven. Langwarrin's fifth win for the year takes them into ninth place, three points clear of Keilor Park, who stay in the relegation zone, in equal tenth.

Two points clear of Langwarrin, Springvale suffered an agonising 2-1 defeat at the hands of FC Clifton Hill at Kevin Bartlett Reserve on Saturday afternoon. Clifton Hill began brightly, Chris Pope and George Kotsiris netting two goals in quick succession to take a handy lead into half time. The White Eagles responded well after the break though, and were rewarded with a goal to Igor Stojanac, but the equaliser proved to be elusive, as Clifton Hill's defence held strong to hold on for their seventh victory for the season.

Meanwhile, yesterday's match at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex between Bentleigh and St Albans has petered out to a tame goalless draw, in something of a statement of the two sides' relatively stable mid-table positions. With neither promotion to gain nor relegation to fear, both teams did not need to worry overly about the result, which was reflected in the lack of urgency for goals. While Alex Rojas almost managed to break the deadlock late in the second half, these chances eventuated in nought, leaving the teams to share the points.



Scorer of Clifton Hill's second goal, George Kotsiris shields the ball from Paul Mahagiar (Springvale White Eagles)

By Reuben Schembri

Photo by John Punshon

Caught in the act ... the camera catches Clifton Hill coach George Karkaletsis with a firm grasp of Paul Mahagiar's shirt

SL1 ROUND 20 RESULTS

Kingston City 1 (J Limic) Sunshine Georgies 3 (WM Wallace N Harrhy 2), Keilor Park 0 Langwarrin 2 (C Nicholes 2), FC Clifton Hill 2 (C Pope G Kotsiris) Springvale White Eagles 1 (I Stojanac), Dandenong Thunder 1 (V Korcarevski) Southern Stars 1 (S Doganay), Bentleigh Greens 0 St Albans Saints 0

SL1 STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sunshine Georgies	20	14	3	3	34	12	45
Dandenong Thunder	20	12	6	2	43	17	42
Southern Stars	20	12	3	5	33	25	39
Bulleen Royals	19	9	7	3	42	21	34
Bentleigh Greens	20	9	6	5	31	23	33
FC Clifton Hill	20	7	5	8	26	37	26
St Albans Saints	20	7	4	9	26	32	25
Springvale White Eagles	20	5	6	9	24	29	21
Langwarrin	20	5	4	11	21	27	19
Westgate	19	3	7	9	19	27	16
Keilor Park	20	4	4	12	18	41	16
Kingston City	20	4	1	15	20	46	13

TOP SCORERS

Becvinovski (Royals)	**9** games	**13** goals
Davidson (Thunder)	**8**	**11**
Nicholes (Langwarrin)	**7**	**11**
Di Iorio (Thunder)	**7**	**9**
Doganay (Stars)	**6**	**9**

NEXT ROUND

Kingston City v Langwarrin
The Grange Reserve
Fri 29 Aug KO 8:30PM

Sunshine Georgies v Bentleigh Green
Chaplin Reserve
Sat 30 Aug KO 3:00PM

Southern Stars v Bulleen Royals
Ross Reserve
Sat 30 Aug KO 3:00PM

Westgate v Keilor Park
Ardeer Reserve
Sat 30 Aug KO 7:00PM

Springvale WE v Dandenong Thunder
Serbian Sports Centre
Sun 31 Aug KO 3:00PM

St Albans Saints v FC Clifton Hill
Churchill Reserve
Sun 31 Aug KO 3:00PM

RESERVES RESULTS

Kingston City 0 Sunshine Georgies 9, Keilor Park 3 (M Mohamed 2 J Zachariou) Langwarrin 1, FC Clifton Hill 3 Springvale White Eagles 1, Dandenong Thunder Southern Stars , Bentleigh Greens 6 St Albans Saints 3

RESERVES STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bentleigh Greens	20	17	0	3	69	27	51
Langwarrin	20	13	3	4	54	27	42
Keilor Park	20	12	5	3	55	29	41
Bulleen Royals	19	12	2	5	45	20	38
FC Clifton Hill	20	11	3	6	49	35	36
Southern Stars	19	7	6	6	40	40	27
Sunshine Georgies	20	6	8	6	35	27	25
Westgate	19	5	2	12	24	53	17
Dandenong Thunder	19	4	2	13	39	58	14
Springvale White Eagles	20	3	5	12	27	57	14
St Albans Saints	20	2	7	11	34	52	12
Kingston City	20	3	3	14	29	75	12

PERTH GLORY

3 - 3

NEWCASTLE JETS

94TH MINUTE HEARTACHE

Jets Scrape Through In Thriller

A goal from Newcastle Jets skipper Jade North with virtually the last kick of the game levelled a pulsating encounter against Perth Glory on Friday night.

The game see-sawed all evening, showcasing a great advert for A-League football with home side Glory twice coming from behind before then taking the lead that they were so close to hanging onto.

The final outcome left Perth coach David Mitchell fuming, clearly feeling his side had been more than unlucky.

"I have no idea where the four minutes came from. Where he got that from I don't know. It feels like a loss, not a draw. Take a look at the first goal. The tackle was outside the box. That's clear for everyone to see. Sometimes we are on the receiving end of more than bad luck."

Despite the initial disappointment, Mitchell can take heart from his team's first home game of the season. As well as coming within ten-seconds of upsetting the champions, the home-debuts of Argentinean import Adrian Trinidad, Ivory Coast marksman Eugene Dadi and Brazilian playmaker Amaral were definite positives to draw on.

"Look they did well," said Mitchell. "Trinidad looked full of confidence and big Eugene got on the end of a move that you would see in the Premier League - great one touch football. Amaral has settled well also and you can see tonight, he's a class act. Newcastle will find themselves very lucky."

The opening exchanges were very even. The games first chance falling to Newcastle's Edmundo Zura, who outpaced Dino Djulbic with ease but his hurried shot, was one to forget.

Glory's best chance of success looked like coming from the left flank. Mark Lee the benefactor, linking up well with both Nikolai Topor-Stanley and Trinidad. Lee's end product however, was leaving a lot to be desired.

It took a reckless challenge by Djulbic on Joel Griffiths to spark the game to life after 19 minutes. Replay's showed the challenge was clearly outside the box but Referee Craig Zetter pointed to the sport before Griffith's dusted himself off to convert.

A clearer penalty just after the half hour mark ensured the teams would go into the interval level. Trinidad scoring after he himself had been fouled in a scramble following Ante Covic's brilliantly parry of Topor-Stanley's towering header from a corner.

The second half was in full flow after just four minutes. The lively Jin-Hyung Songs' strike from just inside the box took an unfortunate deflection of Glory skipper Jamie Coyne, completely wrong footing 'keeper Frank Juric.

Much like the first half, going behind inspired the home side and the vocal crowd of nearly 9,000.

Nine minutes later Glory got their reward with a goal any side would have been proud of.

Great interchange between the bandaged Scott Bulloch, Amadel and Adriano Pellegrino saw Amadel himself released down the right. His first-time volleyed cross brilliantly picked out the giant Dadi who climbed above his two markers to power home.

The impetus was fully with the home side and they must have thought they'd snatched the points nine minutes from time when substitute Nikita Rukavytsya scored with his first touch, racing onto a Pellegrino through-ball to slide home.

Instead it was his Olyroo's teammate North who had the last say. Racing onto a flicked long-ball, he held off the challenge of Coyne before stabbing past Juric ensuring the Jet's left the west with a share of the spoils.

By David Cox in Perth

Photos by FFA

PLAYER RATINGS - GLORY

Frank Juric – Produced a great save to keep the score at 2-2 moments after Dadi equalized but won't be happy with the last second equalizer. **6/10**
Hayden Doyle – A quiet game and will be looking to work on his distribution. Replaced by Harnwell. **5/10**
Jamie Coyne (c) – A solid performance for the skipper and unfortunate for the second goal. Tired legs got the better of him for the late drama. **6/10**
Dino Djulbic – A night to forget for the big Bosnian. Needless challenge led to the penalty and nowhere to be seen for the late equalizer. Given a torrid time by Zura and Griffiths. **3/10**
Nikolai Topor-Stanley – Very useful going forward, as a result often caught out of position in defence. **6/10**
Scott Bulloch – Improved dramatically after re-emerging from the touchline with his head bandaged following a clash of heads. At the heart of all good things Glory. **7/10**
Adriano Pellegrino – Tireless running and feisty tackling. Delightful through ball set up Rukavytsya**. 7/10**
Amaral – Already looking to be a fan favourite. Showed touches of class, but the quicker he moves the ball and removes the play-acting the better. **7/10**
Mark Lee – Saw a lot of the ball early down the left and delivered many dangerous set pieces. Faded in the second period. **6/10**
Adrian Trinidad – Plenty of South American flair but also combined his tricks with a solid work ethic. Deserved his goal. **7/10**
Eugene Dadi – Already a talisman? His strength and tenacity was a constant thorn in the Jets' side. Produced a top class finish for the second goal. Performance typified when he tracked back fully 60 yards to make a wonderful tackle. **8/10 MOM.**

Substitutes:
Jamie Harnwell (on for Doyle 66') – Rapturous applause for the veteran. Got stuck into a battle early with Zura and stuck to his task well. 7/10
Nikita Rukavytsya (on for Lee 79') – Scored with pretty much his first touch. His pace would cause any defender problems. 7/10
Nick Rizzo (on for Dadi 84) – Not on long enough to judge. 5/10
Not used: Jason Petkovic.

PLAYER RATINGS - JETS

Ante Covic – Had no chance with any of the goals. Pulled off two brilliant saves from point-blank range but no 'keeper likes conceding three. **6/10**
Tarek Elrich – Given a torrid time by Lee first half. Just as he got to grips with him, Rukavytsya replaced him and scored. **5/10**
Adam Griffiths – Towering performance that didn't warrant three goals against. Had a great battle against Dadi **8/10**
Jade North (c) – A no-nonsense skipper's performance away from home. Get going 'till the last and found himself the unlikely hero**. 8/10**
Adam D'Apuzzo – Dependable and disciplined in his tussles with Bulloch and Amaral. Got forward when he could. **6/10**
James Holland – Held the midfield together well to allow Song the freedom to get forward. **6/10**
Jobe Wheelhouse – Like Holland, given the task to be disciplined to allow others to create. **6/10**
Jin-Hyun Song – Did well with his varied movement and excellent vision. Was in the right position for his fortuitous goal**. 7/10**
Matt Thompson – Tireless running without being spectacular. **6/10**
Joel Griffiths – Great work down the right hand side in the early stages. Proceeded to link **well with Zura to keep Glory on their toes. 7/10**
Edmundo Zura – Strength and pace to strike fear into any defence. Just ask Djulbic. **7/10**

Substitutes:
Noel Spencer (on for Wheelhouse 69') – Picked up where Wheelhouse left off. **6/10**
Kaz Patafta (on for Zura 80') – Offered something different to Zura but the Jets' found themselves 3-2 down less than a minute after his introduction. **5/10**

goal! Weekly

RESULTS - ROUND ONE

Perth Glory 3 (Adrian Trinidad 36' (pen), Eugene Dadi 58', Nikita Rukavytsya 81')
Newcastle Jets 3 (Joel Griffiths 20'(pen), Jamie Coyne 49'(o.g), Jade North 95+')
Friday 22 August 2008
Members Equity Stadium, Perth
Referee: Craig Zetter
Crowd: 8,876

Perth Glory line-up: 20.Frank JURIC (gk), 2.Nikolai TOPOR-STANLEY, 4.Jamie COYNE (Captain), 6.Dino DJULBIC, 9.Adrian TRINIDAD, 10.AMARAL, 11.Scott BULLOCH, 14.Eugene DADI (7.Nick RIZZO 85'), 15.Hayden DOYLE (5.Jamie HARNWELL 67'), 16.Adriano PELLEGRINO, 21.Mark LEE (13.Nikita RUKAVYTSYA 79').

Substitutes Not Used: 1.Jason PETKOVIC (gk).

Yellow Cards: Dino Djulbic 19'.
Red Cards: Nil

Newcastle Jets line-up: 1.Ante COVIC (gk), 2.Adam GRIFFITHS, 3.Jade NORTH (Captain), 5.James HOLLAND, 8.Matt THOMPSON, 9.Joel GRIFFITHS, 10.Jin-Hyung SONG, 11.Tarek ELRICH, 12.Jobe WHEELHOUSE (18 Noel SPENCER 69'), 13.Adam D'APUZZO, 23.Edmundo ZURA (7.Kaz PATAFTA 80').

Substitutes Not Used: 16.Ben KANTAROVSKI, 20.Ben KENNEDY (gk)

Yellow Cards: Adam Griffiths 64', Jade North 66', Edmundo Zura 70'.
Red Cards: Nil

Central Coast Mariners 2 (Sasho Petrovski 13'(pen)/67')
Sydney FC 3 (Steve Corica 6'/14', Shannon Cole 81')
Saturday, 23 August 2008
Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford
Referee: Ben Williams
Crowd: 10,932

Central Coast Mariners line-up: 20.Danny VUKOVIC (gk), 4.Pedj BOJIC, 5.Bradley PORTER (9.Nik MRDJA 78'), 7.John HUTCHINSON, 10.Adrian CACERES, 15.Andrew CLARK, 16.Nigel BOOGAARD, 18.Alex WILKINSON (Captain), 19.Matt SIMON, 21.Ahmad ELRICH, 22.Sasho PETROVSKI.

Substitutes Not Used: 6.David D'APUZZO, 17.Matthew OSMAN, 40.Mark BOSNICH (gk)

Yellow Cards: Andrew Clark 48', Sasho Petrovski 55', Pedj Bojic 56', Nigel Boogaard 80'.
Red Cards: Nil

Sydney FC line-up: 1.Clint BOLTON (gk), 2.Iain FYFE, 4.Simon COLOSIMO, 7.Robbie MIDDLEBY, 8.Stuart MUSIALIK, 10.Steve CORICA (Captain) (26.Dez GIRALDI 81'), 12.Shannon COLE (25.Robert MILES-KI 93+'), 14.Alex BROSQUE (16.Chris PAYNE 89'), 15.Terry MCFLYNN, 17.Jacob TIMPANO, 19.Mark BRIDGE.

Substitutes Not Used: 20.Ivan NECEVSKI (gk).
Yellow Cards: Robbie Middleby 34', Simon Colosimo 45', Stuart Musialik 68'/68', Shannon Cole 91+', Iain Fyfe 93+'.
Red Cards: Stuart Musialik 68'.

Wellington Phoenix 2 (Shane Smeltz 29'/65'(pen))
Melbourne Victory 4 (Danny Allsopp 16'/35', Ney Fabiano 47', Kevin Muscat 68'(pen))
Sunday, 24 August 2008
Westpac Stadium
Referee: Strebre Delovski
Crowd: 6,110

Wellington Phoenix line-up: 20.Glen MOSS (gk), 3.Tony LOCHHEAD, 4.Jon McKAIN, 9.Shane SMELTZ, 10.Michael FERRANTE, 11.Daniel (8.Vaughan COVENY 61'), 12.Richard JOHNSON, 13.Troy HEARFIELD, 15.Adam KWASNIK, 22.Andrew DURANTE (Captain), 25.Manny MUSCAT (2.Jeremy CHRISTIE 73').

Substitutes Not Used: 1.Mark PASTON (gk), 5.Karl DODD.

Yellow Cards: Andrew Durante 72', Michael Ferrante 81'.
Red Cards: Nil

Melbourne Victory line-up: 20.Mitchell LANGERAK (gk), 2.Kevin MUSCAT (Captain), 3.Michael THWAITE, 7.Matthew KEMP, 9.Danny ALLSOPP (4.Steve PACE 93+'), 11.Ney Fabiano, 12.Rodrigo VARGAS, 14.Billy CELESKI (15.Tom PONDELJAK 90'), 16.Carlos HERNANDEZ (8.Grant BREBNER 73'), 17.Jose Luis LOPEZ, 19.Evan BERGER.

Substitutes Not Used: 30.Tommi TOMICH (gk).

Yellow Cards: Ney Fabiano 20', Evan Berger 56'.
Red Cards: Nil

Queensland Roar 1 (Charlie Miller 48')
Adelaide United 1 (Travis Dodd 8'(pen))
Sunday, 24 August 2008
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
Referee: Mark Shield
Crowd: 12,761

Queensland Roar line-up: 1.Liam REDDY (gk), 4.Craig MOORE (Captain), 5.Josh McCLOUGHAN, 6.Dave DODD (7.Michael ZULLO 46'), 8.Massimo MURDOCCA, 9.Sergio VAN DIJK, 10.Charlie MILLER, 15.Matt McKAY, 16.Hyuk-Su SEO, 18.Danny TIATTO, 23.Tim SMITS (11.Reinaldo 46').

Substitutes Not Used: 20.Griffin McMASTER (gk), 14.Ben GRIFFIN.

Yellow Cards: Josh McLoughan 7', Craig Moore 75'.
Red Cards: Nil

Adelaide United line-up: 20.Eugene GALEKOVIC (gk), 3.Alemao, 4.Angelo COSTANZO, 7.Lucas PANTELIS, 10.Cristiano, 13.Travis DODD (Captain), 14.Scott JAMIESON, 19.Sasa OGNENOVSKI, 21.Jason SPAGNUOLO (15.Jonas SALLEY 63'), 24.Paul REID, 25.Robert YOUNIS (18.Fabian BARBIERO 63').

Substitutes Not Used: 2.Robert CORNTHWAITE, 40.Julian TORRESAN (gk).

Yellow Cards: Lucas Pantelis 17'.
Red Cards: Nil

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Melbourne Victory	2	1	1	0	4	2	2	4
Sydney FC	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
Adelaide United	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
Newcastle Jets	2	0	2	0	4	4	0	2
Queensland Roar	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
Central Coast Mariners	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
Perth Glory	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
Wellington Phoenix	2	0	1	1	3	5	-2	1

ROUND THREE

MELBOURNE VICTORY
V
NEWCASTLE JETS
KO 8pm Friday 29th Aug
Telstra Dome

ADELAIDE UNITED
V
WELLINGTON PHOENIX
KO 7pm Saturday 30th August
Hindmarsh Stadium

SYDNEY FC
V
PERTH GLORY
KO 3pm Sunday 31st August
Sydney Football Stadium

QUEENSLAND ROAR
V
CENTRAL COAST MARINERS
KO 5pm Sunday 31st August
Suncorp Stadium

TOP SCORERS

3 - Shane Smeltz (WP)
2 - Danny Allsopp (MV), Steve Corica (SFC), Travis Dodd (AU), Joel Griffiths (NJ), Charlie Miller (QR), Sasho Petrovski (CCM)

QUEENSLAND ROAR

1 - 1

ADELAIDE UNITED

STALEMATE AT SUNCORP

Miller's Strike Secures Lions Share Of Points

Adelaide United has held Queensland Roar to a 1-1 draw at Suncorp Stadium in the Hyundai A-League - despite the home side dominating the second half.

The Roar, inspired by the half-time introduction of Reinaldo, created a myriad of chances in the final 45 minutes.

However, after a Charlie Miller goal cancelled out Travis Dodd's eighth-minute penalty, Frank Farina's men weren't able to land the knockout blow and had to be content with a second 1-1 draw in as many weeks.

"It was always going to be a tough game. But I was pretty pleased with the way we played - both the first half and particularly in the second half," Farina said afterwards.

"But, as I said to the boys just now, we've got to close those games out, particularly with the chances we had."

Adelaide counterpart Aurelio Vidmar added: "We're happy to get the point. It's never easy coming here - since the A-League started we've always struggled here but have always seemed to pick up a point or so."

"I thought the last half hour was the best part of our football tonight. We'll take the point, get out of here and worry about what we're doing next week."

The Roar had got back on level terms only a minute into the second half, as Miller scored his second goal of the season off the back of some excellent set-up play from Sergio van Dijk.

The big Dutchman's back-heel touch was exquisite and allowed Miller to surge into the box and slot home with his left-foot without breaking stride.

The goal sparked an impressive flurry from the Roar, as Reinaldo, van Dijk and an increasingly prominent Matt McKay strode forward with real purpose.

But the Adelaide defence dug deep, survived several nervous moments and found a way to keep their hosts at bay.

Aurelio Vidmar's side could even have had an unlikely late winner of its own, but keeper Liam Reddy produced a brilliant point-blank save to deny Lucas Pantelis in stoppage time.

Earlier, Adelaide United had momentarily silenced the parochial home crowd with Dodd's neatly taken penalty.

The Roar had most of the possession up to that point but Adelaide made the most of its first real foray forward.

Brazilian signing Cristiano skipped past two Roar defenders before being brought down Josh McCloughan and Dodd made no mistake from the spot - despite Reddy guessing correctly and diving to his right.

The visitors initially appeared the more likely side to add to the scoreboard and it wasn't until the 22nd minute that the Roar had a shot on target, with Massimo Murdocca's shot comfortably gathered by Eugene Galekovic.

But the Roar slowly worked their way into the contest. Murdocca's next shot was clawed away by Galekovic and in the 43rd minute the Roar all but restored parity.

Tim Smits' snuck in on the right, only to see his goal-bound shot brilliant saved by Galekovic, while Miller's follow-up effort was deflected wide by a desperate Alemao.

Roar skipper Craig Moore was a surprise late inclusion for the home side, after his jarred knee survived the pre-game warm-up.

Report from FFA

Photos by Lee McCormick

Charlie Miller gets the accolades after scoring for the Roar

Roar's Reinaldo slides in at Eugene Galekovic's feet

Adelaide's Travis Dodd and jonas Salley hold firm against Roar's Michael Zullo

WELLINGTON PHOENIX

2 - 4

MELBOURNE VICTORY

COMMANDING VICTORY

Melbourne Go Top After Clinical Display

The battle between Wellington Phoenix and Melbourne Victory might have been won before the players even took to the field.

The strategic prowess of Victory coach Ernie Merrick was clearly evident as his team executed a game plan that delivered results at both ends of the pitch.

Ney Fabiano and a solid midfield ably supported Victory attacker Daniel Allsopp as he continually found holes in the Phoenix defence. Wellington captain Andrew Durante struggled at times to keep pace with Allsopp whose strength both on the ball and in the air was intimidating.

Phoenix coach Ricki Herbert will be welcoming the possible return of experienced defender David Mulligan for next week's game against an impressive Adelaide United.

"We do have some options to explore in the back four – we've got Dave ready after some midweek games, which is good – and that adds to thinking around selection."

The first half saw Melbourne with only 42% of the possession; yet manage to go in at half time leading 2-1. Merrick had obviously spent time drilling his defence on stopping the supply of quality ball to Phoenix striker Shane Smeltz. This meant the Phoenix were often forced to spread the ball wide without being able to turn possession into focused attack. Some of the crossing in particular was below average.

Melbourne Victory's number seven Matthew Kemp was a strong presence, continually harassing as the Phoenix attempted to move the ball forward. Rodrigo Vargas was also a standout for the Victory, fighting hard in the air as well as being able to deliver the type of clinical passing that the Phoenix are desperate to make part of their game.

It was this ability to be clinical, even when the conditions were dreadful under foot, which really defined the Victory performance. This was supported through a fine showing at the back by captain Kevin Muscat and Michael Thwaite. Muscat's evening was topped off by a cool 68th minute penalty strike that sealed the game for Victory. Melbourne was awarded the penalty after Carlos Hernandez was illegally brought down just inside the 18-yard box. The referee was consistent at least with the penalty he awarded two minutes earlier at the other end of the field.

Overall however, Wellington fans will be extremely disappointed with their teams' lapses in concentration. Conceding early second half goals in both rounds so far will be something they will want to see eliminated. The six thousand odd supporters that braved the weather were definitely feverish after 90 minutes, but it was certainly no happy delirium.

The lack of focus meant that Wellington was forced to play catch-up football for most of the game, impossible in the slippery conditions. But perhaps the major reason they struggled was the determination of Melbourne Victory to stick to Ernie Merricks' strategy and use the talent that is abundant in this side. The Victory took their chances throughout and in doing so put 4 goals past the Phoenix, easing the pain of last weeks draw.

By Mark McGeady in Wellington
Photos by Mark McGeady

Goalscorer for the Melbourne Victory Daniel Allsopp is congratulated by teammate De Oliveira Ney Fabiano

Victory captain Kevin Muscat steps up and calmly slots home the penalty, giving the Victory an unassailable 4-2 lead.

CENTRAL COAST MARINERS

2 - 3

SYDNEY FC

SYDNEY SNATCH AN EPIC

Extra Man Not Enough For Mariners

In another vividly dramatic Mariners-Sydney encounter at Bluetongue Stadium, Sydney FC snatched a 3-2 win in the 81st minute, as the Mariners again found a numerical advantage more of a hindrance than a help.

With returned Olympian Mark Bridge at the point of the attack and Alex Brosque – suspended last week – providing good support for Steve Corica just behind the forward-line, Sydney FC started brightly and scored a fine goal after only 6 minutes. Brosque outpaced a match-shy Nigel Boogaard on the Mariners' left, and pulled the ball back across goal; Bridge could not make contact, but Steve Corica was there to finish coolly with his left foot.

The Mariners almost equalized immediately when Adrian Caceres was put through on the left by a lively Sasho Petrovski, but the former Melbourne winger shot straight at Clint Bolton. Matt Simon and Mark Bridge, at opposite ends, both had half-chances in the tenth minute as the game began to open up nicely.

The scores were leveled in the 13th minute. A simple long ball over the top was misread by the Sydney defence, and Simon stormed after it, made his way into the box, and was impeded by a combination of Robbie Middleby and Simon Colosimo. Referee Ben Williams made the dreaded signal.

Petrovski took the kick, and sent a good, low shot into the left-hand corner past his former team-mate.

The goal did not, however, affect Sydney's confidence, and only a minute later they had regained the lead, with a goal of the highest quality. A sweet interpassing move between Corica, Brosque and Bridge ended with the latter holding the ball up by the left by-line: he prodded it back to Brosque, who skipped along the edge of the area before feeding Corica, unmarked, on the right. Sydney's veteran, in superb form, dispatched it into the net past a vainly advancing Vukovic.

Lawrie McKinna moved Boogaard, who had looked well off the pace, into the middle, shifting Pedj Bojic to left-back. And despite a good chance for Brosque on 24 minutes, it was the Mariners who had the better of the rest of the half, with Ahmad Elrich and Caceres often switching flanks to good effect.

A good low cross from Elrich on 25 minutes was nearly deflected for an own goal by Jacob Timpano. Eleven minutes later, a free kick from John Hutchinson was headed just wide of goal, again by a Sydney defender, and in the melee following the subsequent corner Shannon Cole was obliged to clear the ball off the line with his chest.

Bridge missed a superb chance to make it 3-1 on 37 minutes. A breakaway move following a Mariners attack saw Corica and Brosque cleverly work the ball across to Bridge on the right: with an eternity to pick his shot, the former Newcastle stabbed wide of goal with his right foot.

The second half began with a "goal" for Petrovski ruled out for offside, and an excellent save by Danny Vukovic from Brosque as he rushed through on the left to connect with Mark Bridge's through pass. In the next minute, the Mariners picked up two yellow cards for poor challenges, as Sydney appeared to have regained their composure.

Suddenly, on 66 minutes, came the Mariners' equalizer, which had looked unlikely up to that point. A cross from the right reached Petrovski in the box: calmly controlling the ball on his chest, he swept it past Timpano with some ease, and buried a fine diagonal shot into the far corner of the net.

Worse was to follow for Sydney FC. Three minutes after the goal, a dreadful challenge by Stuart Musialik on Brad Porter earned the Sydney man a yellow card. Offering a four-letter aside on Ben Williams' refereeing earned him a card of a darker hue, and Sydney were down to ten.

The Mariners pressed forward, as John Kosmina placed Brosque at the tip and moved Bridge back into midfield. Bojic's shot was deflected to Caceres in the box on 71 minutes, but the latter could again only shoot straight at the goalkeeper. Bolton made a better save a minute later when Petrovski stormed through in the inside-right channel; the Sydney custodian was off his line very quickly to smother.

Cole, having another influential evening, almost latched on to a cutback from Alex Brosque on 78 minutes, but Andrew Clark was there to intercept. However, the man from Sydney Olympic was indeed to make his mark on the game, after a poor challenge on Corica by Boogaard just outside the Mariners area…

Last week, a late free kick from Cole against Melbourne evaded the wall but rattled against the post. This time, again he curved the ball over the wall, again he struck the post…but this time the ball dribbled into the goal.

Wild scenes of celebration from the Cove, as Cole rushed over to perform a somersault in front of his new fan club.

The Mariners gave their all in the final minutes, but it wasn't enough. A header from Simon was well held by Bolton five minutes from time, and despite two more half-chances in injury time, one a header for substitute Nik Mrdja, one a volley from distance by Petrovski, Sydney held on for a precious three points.

PLAYER RATINGS - CCM

Vukovic: 6. Made one or two good saves, but should have done better for the second goal. His distribution still needs work.
Clark: 6. What you see is what you get with the veteran defender…and the commitment is there even if the subtlety isn't.
Bojic: 7. One of the Mariners' best. Adapted to the left-back role surprisingly well, contributing in both defence and attack.
Wilkinson: 6. Like the rest of the Mariners' backline, was caught out at times. But generally did fairly well.
Boogaard: 4. Clearly not match-fit and had a torrid time throughout.
Elrich: 6. Unconvincing. Ultimately provided a couple of useful crosses, but doesn't look to have quite enough pace these days.
Hutchinson: 6. A solid job in midfield, but could have been a bit more dynamic when required.
Porter: 5. Largely anonymous. Not really suited to central midfield.
Caceres: 6. Mixed good movement and subtle skill with dreadful finishing.
Simon: 7. His physical presence always caused Sydney problems. Makes the most of his particular attributes.
Petrovski: 8. Always fires up against his old club, and tonight was no exception. A superb finish for the second goal.

Substitutes:
Mrdja: N/A. Not on long enough to make a difference…which is perhaps a poor reflection on Lawrie McKinna's acumen in 11 v. 10 situations.

By Mike Salter in Sydney
Photos by John Dewberry

Central Coast Mariners trio Sasho Petrovski, Matt Simon and Adrian Caceres celebrate the formers goal at Bluetongue Stadium - Petrovski's second of this fixture against Sydney FC. Photo courtesy of John Dewberry and Action Sports Images.

PLAYER RATINGS - SFC

Bolton: 6. A very mixed evening. Commanded his area well and was quick off his line to make a couple of good saves, but his handling was poor in the first half, and his distribution, for once, was woeful.
Middleby: 6. Acquitted himself fairly well in the left-back role, which is not well suited to him.
Timpano: 6. Lots of ups and downs. Beaten far too easily for the Mariners' second goal, but he made a couple of crucial clearances and interceptions.
Colosimo: 6: A midfielder playing at centre-half. But he did capably enough.
Fyfe: 5. Not the best of nights for the big man, playing again in the right-back slot he seems to dislike.
McFlynn: 6. Typically spirited, but gave little in a creative sense.
Musialik: 5. Did well in the engine room, controlling the tempo, but gets a big minus mark for a moment of foolishness which should have cost his team.
Brosque: 7. Despite a couple of missed chances, he was excellent tonight, combining well with the other attacking players. Enjoys being able to drop behind the front line a bit.
Corica: 9. Just when will the old dog lie down? Absolutely peerless tonight, with two well-taken goals and hardly a ball wasted.
Cole: 8. This young man seems made for the A-League stage. Fine contributions in attack and defence, and, of course, that wonderful free kick.
Bridge: 6. Some excellent contributions in attack, but a very bad miss in the first half.

Substitutes:
Giraldi, Payne, Mileski: N/A. All late, time-wasting, leg-saving substitutions by Kosmina.

Seniors — NORTH WEST 2 — Reserves

Thomastown Devils Moreland City , Altona East Phoenix 1 (B Lojanica) North Geelong Warriors 0, Williamstown 0 Brunswick City 0, Pascoe Vale 0 Altona City 0, Maribyrnong Greens 1 (J Suric) Werribee City 3 (M Collins S Panebianco D Iuele), Cairnlea 4 (A Bakri E Koc D Delre A Ikiz) Ballarat Red Devils 3 (P McClounan SJ Romein AB Lymn)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Pascoe Vale	20	11	9	0	24	7	42
Werribee City	20	12	4	4	35	19	40
Altona East Phoenix	20	11	5	4	29	14	38
North Geelong Warriors	20	10	6	4	32	15	36
Brunswick City	20	8	6	6	22	17	30
Ballarat Red Devils	20	7	7	6	28	32	28
Thomastown Devils	19	8	3	8	34	30	27
Williamstown	20	7	3	10	25	27	24
Altona City	20	6	5	9	17	30	23
Moreland City	19	3	7	9	22	28	16
Cairnlea	20	4	4	12	23	39	16
Maribyrnong Greens	20	1	3	16	15	48	6

Thomastown Devils Moreland City , Altona East Phoenix 1 North Geelong Warriors 1, Williamstown 1 Brunswick City 0, Pascoe Vale 0 Altona City 2, Maribyrnong Greens 0 Werribee City 9, Cairnlea 4 Ballarat Red Devils 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moreland City	19	16	1	2	62	24	49
Thomastown Devils	19	12	4	3	46	29	40
Cairnlea	20	13	1	6	52	39	40
Altona City	20	10	3	7	44	32	33
Brunswick City	20	9	2	9	39	37	29
Werribee City	20	8	3	9	48	39	27
North Geelong Warriors	20	8	2	10	39	36	26
Williamstown	20	6	7	7	30	35	25
Ballarat Red Devils	20	7	1	12	38	44	22
Pascoe Vale	20	7	1	12	31	37	22
Altona East Phoenix	20	5	4	11	26	38	19
Maribyrnong Greens	20	3	1	16	14	79	10

Seniors — SOUTH EAST 2 — Reserves

Doncaster Rovers 7 (Z Stefanidis 2 S Pitruzzello AJ Hammer RH Dias 3) Waverley Wanderers 2 (PT Papadopoulos S Bakshi), Eastern Lions 0 Knox City 0, Diamond Valley Utd 2 (K Simsek L Minopoulos) Port Melbourne 1 (B Norton), Northcote City 2 (E Soares 2) South Springvale 1 (C Andronicou), Casey Comets 1 (PM Presti) Stonnington City 3 (JM Sastre-Tejedor 2 T Williams), Peninsula Strikers 1 (DT Ventieri) Chelsea 3 (L Palinic J Benli WM Gordon)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Northcote City	20	15	1	4	45	21	46
Doncaster Rovers	20	11	6	3	44	21	39
Knox City	20	12	3	5	38	19	39
Chelsea	20	11	2	7	33	28	35
Stonnington City	20	10	2	8	41	33	32
Diamond Valley Utd	20	9	4	7	32	36	31
South Springvale	20	8	5	7	27	24	29
Casey Comets	20	7	6	7	26	28	27
Eastern Lions	20	6	3	11	18	28	21
Port Melbourne	20	4	5	11	22	38	17
Peninsula Strikers	20	4	3	13	20	37	15
Waverley Wanderers	20	2	2	16	16	49	8

Doncaster Rovers 3 Waverley Wanderers 0, Eastern Lions 1 Knox City 1, Diamond Valley Utd 2 Port Melbourne 2, Northcote City 2 South Springvale 0, Casey Comets 1 Stonnington City 0, Peninsula Strikers 3 Chelsea 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox City	20	11	7	2	36	19	40
Doncaster Rovers	20	12	3	5	41	22	39
Peninsula Strikers	20	11	3	6	37	22	36
Eastern Lions	20	11	2	7	42	31	35
Casey Comets	20	8	6	6	38	34	30
Northcote City	20	7	7	6	39	33	28
Waverley Wanderers	20	7	5	8	33	36	26
Chelsea	20	7	4	9	36	40	25
South Springvale	20	7	3	10	23	29	24
Port Melbourne	20	4	7	9	27	43	19
Stonnington City	20	5	4	11	28	45	19
Diamond Valley Utd	20	2	5	13	18	44	11

Seniors — NORTH WEST 3 — Reserves

Banyule City 4 Geelong 2, La Trobe University 3 (C Clark 2 N Vissaris) Lalor 1 (J Arvanitis), North Sunshine Eagles 1 (A Isai) Sunbury Utd 1 (V Ierardo), Geelong Rangers 2 (T Hardy J Blackburn) Lalor Utd 1 (Own Goal), Yarraville Glory 1 (A Tsirtsakis) Laverton Park 0, Westvale 1 (G Timotheou) Sydenham Park 1 (B Trpcevski)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Geelong Rangers	20	10	7	3	46	30	37
Sydenham Park	20	9	8	3	36	20	35
Westvale	20	9	5	6	32	28	32
Banyule City	20	9	4	7	22	25	31
Geelong	20	8	6	6	40	27	30
Lalor	20	7	9	4	28	23	27
North Sunshine Eagles	20	7	6	7	31	32	27
Lalor Utd	20	7	6	7	28	31	27
Yarraville Glory	20	6	7	7	23	28	25
La Trobe University	20	5	7	8	23	28	22
Sunbury Utd	20	4	6	10	23	36	18
Laverton Park	20	2	3	15	16	40	9

Banyule City 2 Geelong 3, La Trobe University 1 Lalor 2, North Sunshine Eagles 1 Sunbury Utd 2, Geelong Rangers 8 Lalor Utd 1, Yarraville Glory 1 Laverton Park 3, Westvale 2 Sydenham Park 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Geelong	20	16	2	2	58	19	50
La Trobe University	20	13	3	4	45	17	42
Sunbury Utd	20	11	5	4	41	16	38
Sydenham Park	19	10	5	4	43	32	35
Westvale	19	11	2	6	43	35	35
Lalor	19	8	3	8	44	29	24
North Sunshine Eagles	20	6	4	10	38	43	22
Banyule City	20	7	1	12	32	44	22
Laverton Park	20	5	2	13	25	52	17
Yarraville Glory	19	5	2	12	22	70	17
Geelong Rangers	20	4	4	12	36	48	16
Lalor Utd	20	5	1	14	25	47	16

Seniors — SOUTH EAST 3 — Reserves

Brandon Park 5 (S Kyriazis A Mashoian A Arzadian R Benedos H Swami) Boroondara Eagles 2 (NS Cunningham A Notaro), Morwell Pegasus 1 (F Albanese) Croydon City Arrows 1 (AJ Butler), Doveton 1 (HA Reyes) Sandringham City 6 (O Harel 4 PA McCluskey 2), Southern Suburbs 2 (DA Mota K Olabuntu) Endeavour Utd 1 (O Baheerathan), Springvale City 2 (A Lolic) Heatherton Utd 3 (J Pekmezovic 2 A Karic)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Morwell Pegasus	20	13	4	3	46	22	43
Heatherton Utd	20	12	3	5	38	29	39
Springvale City	20	9	3	8	25	29	30
Berwick City	19	8	5	6	32	27	29
Southern Suburbs	20	9	2	9	29	32	29
Brandon Park	20	7	6	7	31	28	27
Croydon City Arrows	20	7	5	8	26	21	26
Sandringham City	20	7	4	9	37	33	25
Boroondara Eagles	20	7	2	11	29	34	23
Doveton	20	6	5	9	32	48	23
North Caulfield	19	4	9	6	21	26	21
Endeavour Utd	20	3	6	11	21	38	15

Brandon Park 2 Boroondara Eagles 1, Morwell Pegasus Croydon City Arrows , Doveton 2 Sandringham City 2, Southern Suburbs 2 Endeavour Utd 1, Springvale City 3 Heatherton Utd 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sandringham City	20	16	2	2	52	16	50
Boroondara Eagles	20	12	4	4	33	17	40
Croydon City Arrows	19	11	3	5	39	16	36
Endeavour Utd	20	11	0	9	37	34	33
Berwick City	19	9	5	5	48	31	32
Brandon Park	20	9	4	7	39	30	31
North Caulfield	19	9	2	8	39	25	29
Southern Suburbs	20	8	2	10	30	37	26
Morwell Pegasus	19	6	4	9	32	29	22
Doveton	20	5	7	8	24	29	22
Heatherton Utd	20	4	1	15	17	59	13
Springvale City	20	1	0	19	15	82	3

Seniors — PROVI 1 NORTH WEST — Reserves

South Yarra 1 (S Christov) Western Eagles 0, Corio 0 Melbourne City 1 (P Di Orio), Melbourne Tornado 1 (A Batur) Avondale Heights 7 (M Jancic 4 A Tennenini A Cristiano 2), Whittlesea Utd Elwood City , Plenty Valley Lions 0 Melbourne University Rangers 3 (A Griffith DJ Greenwood N Schaer), Hume Utd 1 (E Karasungur) Glenroy 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hume Utd	20	13	5	2	47	18	44
Melbourne Uni Rangers	20	11	2	7	31	26	35
Glenroy	20	11	4	5	40	25	34
Whittlesea Utd	19	9	5	5	30	21	32
South Yarra	20	9	4	7	30	20	31
Corio	20	9	3	8	21	28	30
Western Eagles	20	7	5	8	36	30	26
Melbourne City	20	7	5	8	29	30	26
Elwood City	19	7	4	8	32	36	25
Plenty Valley Lions	20	7	2	11	31	38	23
Avondale Heights	20	4	5	11	27	32	17
Melbourne Tornado	20	2	2	16	20	70	8

South Yarra 4 Western Eagles 0, Corio 1 Melbourne City 4, Melbourne Tornado 1 Avondale Heights 2, Whittlesea Utd Elwood City , Plenty Valley Lions 2 Melbourne University Rangers 0, Hume Utd Glenroy

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Melbourne Uni Rangers	20	16	2	2	51	10	50
South Yarra	20	16	2	2	51	18	50
Plenty Valley Lions	20	11	3	6	32	24	36
Avondale Heights	20	9	5	6	37	29	32
Hume Utd	19	6	6	7	35	34	24
Western Eagles	20	7	2	11	21	32	23
Melbourne City	20	6	4	10	24	28	22
Corio	20	6	4	10	28	47	22
Elwood City	19	6	3	10	29	37	21
Whittlesea Utd	19	6	3	10	21	31	21
Glenroy	19	7	2	10	27	35	20
Melbourne Tornado	20	4	0	16	21	52	12

Seniors — PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST — Reserves

Old Melburnians 0 Noble Park Utd 4 (Z Seci N Vukosavljevic L Medic Own Goal), Fitzroy City 1 (S Peutherer) Monbulk 3 (S Carr 2 D Adams), Ashburton 2 (T Kirwan 2) Monash University 0, White Star Dandenong 0 Nunawading City 3 (M Marnell J Ivanov MG Elvin), Mooroolbark 0 Warragul Utd 0, Rowville Eagles 1 (S Radu) Scotch Old Boys 10 (N Jewitt 2 D Fielding 2 TE Benson P Cosenza 4 TI Murray)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Noble Park Utd	20	15	2	3	77	27	47
Nunawading City	20	14	4	2	57	17	46
Monbulk	20	13	4	3	57	18	43
Fitzroy City	20	12	3	5	61	30	39
Old Melburnians	20	9	5	6	47	31	32
Scotch Old Boys	20	9	3	8	35	28	30
Monash University	20	8	3	9	43	37	27
Mooroolbark	20	6	5	9	38	51	23
Ashburton	20	7	1	12	33	46	22
Warragul Utd	20	4	7	9	20	33	19
Rowville Eagles	20	3	1	16	21	83	10
White Star Dandenong	20	0	2	18	13	101	2

Old Melburnians 5 Noble Park Utd 0, Fitzroy City 1 Monbulk 5, Ashburton 0 Monash University 3, White Star Dandenong 3 Nunawading City 3, Mooroolbark 4 Warragul Utd 1, Rowville Eagles 0 Scotch Old Boys 11

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Monash University	20	15	2	3	60	18	47
Old Melburnians	20	12	3	5	42	26	39
Nunawading City	20	10	5	5	47	28	35
Monbulk	20	10	4	6	39	22	34
Fitzroy City	20	9	6	5	57	42	33
Ashburton	20	10	3	7	32	30	33
Scotch Old Boys	20	8	7	5	45	27	31
Warragul Utd	20	6	6	8	34	42	24
Mooroolbark	20	6	4	10	29	40	22
Noble Park Utd	20	5	4	11	44	49	19
Rowville Eagles	20	3	3	14	23	79	12
White Star Dandenong	20	1	3	16	14	63	6

Seniors — PROVI 2 NORTH WEST — Reserves

Darebin Utd 3 (C Mimilidis J Nikolarakos 2) Brimbank City 2 (M Salkic E Kesic), Moreland Utd 0 Melton 0, Northern Falcons 0 Collingwood City 1 (S Costantino), Bell Park 4 (M Gstalter I Majtara E Lawrence D Nelson) Keon Park 0, Essendon Utd 2 (RA Carchedi D Loschiavo) West Preston 1 (T Emtsis), Hoppers Crossing 0 North City Lions 1 (R Nedelkov)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Essendon Utd	19	13	5	1	39	10	44
North City Lions	20	12	5	3	48	26	41
Collingwood City	20	11	5	4	28	19	38
Northern Falcons	20	10	5	5	44	17	35
Moreland Utd	20	10	5	5	40	27	35
West Preston	20	10	2	8	39	35	32
Hoppers Crossing	19	7	4	8	22	28	25
Bell Park	20	7	3	10	31	33	24
Darebin Utd	20	7	2	11	27	39	23
Keon Park	20	4	6	10	23	36	18
Melton	20	5	2	13	28	42	17
Brimbank City	20	0	2	18	17	74	2

Darebin Utd 0 Brimbank City 1, Moreland Utd 1 Melton 1, Northern Falcons 2 Collingwood City 0, Bell Park 4 Keon Park 0, Essendon Utd 0 West Preston 3, Hoppers Crossing North City Lions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
North City Lions	19	15	2	2	47	13	47
Essendon Utd	20	12	4	4	46	24	40
Northern Falcons	20	11	3	6	51	36	36
Collingwood City	20	10	5	5	36	26	35
Moreland Utd	20	8	5	7	40	47	29
Melton	20	7	5	8	30	35	26
Keon Park	20	6	6	8	33	33	24
West Preston	20	6	5	9	35	41	23
Bell Park	20	7	1	12	38	39	22
Hoppers Crossing	19	6	4	9	25	31	22
Brimbank City	20	5	3	12	29	55	18
Darebin Utd	20	3	3	14	28	58	12

Seniors — PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST — Reserves

Mornington 4 (A Halikias JG Nichols 2 C Richardson) Dandenong Sparrows 2 (D Ithier 2), Carrum Utd 2 (C Espinoza M Vella) Old Brighton Grammarians 1 (CJ Cook), Old Camberwell Grammar 1 (J Bush) Keysborough 2 (R Don Paul G Roberts), Berwick Kings 4 (B Stojilovic 3 O Jovanovic) Caulfield Utd 1 (A Maabreh), Old Trinity Grammarians 2 (R Parisella 2) Lyndale Utd 1 (R Roslan), Whitehorse Utd 3 (J Purcell K Tavrou T Little) Riversdale 2 (B Christakakis T Piszczyk)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Mornington	20	11	5	4	45	28	38
Old Camberwell Grammar	20	11	5	4	41	25	38
Whitehorse Utd	20	9	5	6	32	19	32
Lyndale Utd	20	10	1	9	37	37	31
Riversdale	20	9	3	8	56	40	30
Old Brighton Grammarians	20	8	4	8	37	44	28
Dandenong Sparrows	20	8	3	9	36	40	27
Caulfield Utd	20	8	2	10	35	41	26
Berwick Kings	20	7	3	10	22	36	24
Carrum Utd	20	6	4	10	31	39	22
Keysborough	20	5	6	9	29	34	21
Old Trinity Grammarians	20	6	3	11	26	44	21

Mornington 0 Dandenong Sparrows 1, Carrum Utd 1 Old Brighton Grammarians 2, Old Camberwell Grammar 2 Keysborough 3, Berwick Kings 2 Caulfield Utd 16, Old Trinity Grammarians 2 Lyndale Utd 1, Whitehorse Utd 5 Riversdale 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Riversdale	20	16	2	2	58	24	50
Caulfield Utd	20	14	0	6	62	29	42
Old Camberwell Grammar	20	11	3	6	44	23	36
Old Brighton Grammarians	20	11	0	9	46	40	33
Mornington	20	9	3	8	41	38	30
Whitehorse Utd	20	9	2	9	31	26	29
Keysborough	20	8	3	9	44	35	27
Lyndale Utd	20	7	4	9	35	38	25
Old Trinity Grammarians	20	7	4	9	33	42	25
Dandenong Sparrows	20	8	0	12	39	47	24
Carrum Utd	20	6	3	11	34	51	21
Berwick Kings	20	2	0	18	31	105	6

Seniors — PROVI 3 NORTH WEST — Reserves

Brunswick Zebras 2 (M Roca BS Holod) Dallas Eagles 1 (E Samat), Youth Utd 1 (SA Cicek) Ascot Vale 2 (K Salazar 2), Bundoora Utd 0 Watsonia Heights 4 (A Popovski 2 OM Ali 2), Surf Coast 3 (MB Jablonski 2 A Bond) Northern Utd 1 (C Dickson), Moreland Wolves 3 (D Colella LK Harrison 2) Mill Park 3 (S Kouis A Nichola 2), Epping City 1 (J Bozinovski) Brimbank 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Watsonia Heights	20	15	2	3	60	21	47
Epping City	20	14	3	3	44	15	45
Bundoora Utd	20	10	5	5	36	26	35
Brimbank	20	9	5	6	49	32	32
Youth Utd	20	9	3	8	39	40	30
Surf Coast	20	8	5	7	29	33	29
Brunswick Zebras	20	7	5	8	35	37	26
Ascot Vale	20	6	7	7	25	27	25
Mill Park	20	5	6	9	23	41	21
Northern Utd	20	4	4	12	20	45	16
Moreland Wolves	20	3	6	11	32	52	15
Dallas Eagles	20	2	5	13	15	38	8

Brunswick Zebras 1 Dallas Eagles 2, Youth Utd 4 Ascot Vale 1, Bundoora Utd 0 Watsonia Heights 5, Surf Coast 3 Northern Utd 3, Moreland Wolves 0 Mill Park 0, Epping City 2 Brimbank 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Epping City	20	18	2	0	80	9	56
Watsonia Heights	19	14	3	2	57	20	45
Brimbank	20	14	2	4	52	26	44
Youth Utd	19	10	1	8	56	40	31
Brunswick Zebras	20	9	4	7	43	34	31
Surf Coast	20	7	3	10	49	55	24
Ascot Vale	20	7	3	10	34	40	24
Bundoora Utd	20	6	3	11	37	49	21
Moreland Wolves	20	6	3	11	32	53	21
Northern Utd	20	4	5	11	30	61	17
Dallas Eagles	20	5	3	12	29	60	15
Mill Park	20	1	4	15	10	62	7

Seniors — PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST — Reserves

Keilor Wolves 1 (F Ivanco) Old Carey 6 (R Stanner 2 A Dana RP Donovan TE Crowle Own Goal), Endeavour Hills 0 Bayside Argonauts 6 (G Triantafillidis C Kozaris 2 A Lafasanidis 2 D Andreou), Eltham North 0 Noble Park 0, Dandenong Warriors 0 Beaumaris 4 (MG Antonopoulos B Shields 2 DM Cappellari), Uni. of Melbourne 0 Seaford Utd 0, Brighton 4 (M McCaig 2 S Letts VM Garcia) Dandenong City 1 (KA O'Connor)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Carey	21	15	3	3	48	25	48
Beaumaris	20	13	3	4	45	23	42
Bayside Argonauts	20	12	3	5	47	25	39
Dandenong City	20	9	5	6	42	35	32
Keilor Wolves	20	9	4	7	46	45	31
Endeavour Hills	20	10	1	9	45	48	31
Seaford Utd	20	9	3	8	31	27	30
Noble Park	20	7	5	8	35	39	23
Brighton	21	7	0	14	46	60	21
Dandenong Warriors	20	5	2	13	39	52	17
Uni. of Melbourne	20	5	2	13	21	34	17
Eltham North	20	2	5	13	28	60	11

Keilor Wolves 1 Old Carey 5, Endeavour Hills 0 Bayside Argonauts 7, Eltham North 6 Noble Park 1, Dandenong Warriors Beaumaris , Uni. of Melbourne 1 Seaford Utd 3, Brighton 2 Dandenong City 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Carey	21	19	0	2	72	21	57
Bayside Argonauts	18	15	1	2	64	24	46
Beaumaris	18	13	2	3	65	29	41
Dandenong Warriors	18	11	1	6	56	31	34
Seaford Utd	20	8	7	5	58	40	31
Brighton	21	8	2	11	39	40	26
Uni. of Melbourne	20	7	2	11	38	48	23
Dandenong City	20	7	2	11	40	55	23
Endeavour Hills	20	6	1	13	33	68	19
Keilor Wolves	20	4	3	13	33	53	15
Eltham North	20	5	0	15	30	70	15
Noble Park	20	3	3	14	37	86	9

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ROUND TWENTY-ONE FIXTURES

All matches to be played on Saturday 30th August with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

STATE NW 2
Cairnlea v North Geelong Warriors
Cairnlea Park
Ballarat Red Devils v Maribyrnong Greens
Trekardo Park
Altona City v Thomastown Devils
HC Kim Reserve
Moreland City v Williamstown
Campbell Reserve
Brunswick City v Altona East Phoenix
Dunstan Reserve
Werribee City v Pascoe Vale
Galvin Park Reserve

STATE SE 2
Port Melbourne v Doncaster Rovers
SS Anderson Reserve Fri 29 Aug 08 8:30PM
Peninsula Strikers v Knox City
Centenary Park
Chelsea v Casey Comets
HD Thomas Reserve
South Springvale v Diamond Valley Utd
Warner Reserve (Springvale)
Waverley Wanderers v Eastern Lions
Carlson Ave Reserve
Stonnington City v Northcote City
Kooyong Reserve No. 3

STATE NW 3
Westvale v Geelong
McKechnie Reserve
Sydenham Park v Yarraville Glory
Keilor Lodge Reserve
Lalor Utd v North Sunshine Eagles
HR Uren Reserve
Sunbury Utd v La Trobe University
Langama Park
Lalor v Banyule City
RGC Cook Reserve
Laverton Park v Geelong Rangers
Laverton Park Reserve

STATE SE 3
Boroondara Eagles v Springvale City
Macleay Park
Heatherton Utd v Berwick City
Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre
Endeavour Utd v Doveton
Reema Reserve
Sandringham City v Morwell Pegasus
RJ Sillitoe Reserve
Croydon City Arrows v Brandon Park
Dorset Recreational Reserve
North Caulfield v Southern Suburbs
Caulfield Park Sun 31 Aug 08 3:00PM

PROVI NW 1
Hume Utd v Western Eagles
Laura Douglas Reserve
Glenroy v Plenty Valley Lions
Strathnaver Reserve
Elwood City v Melbourne Tornado
Elwood Park
Avondale Heights v Corio
Allan Reserve
Melbourne City v South Yarra
Edwards Reserve
Melbourne University Rangers v Whittlesea Utd
Princes Park Oval #2

PROVI SE 1
Rowville Eagles v Noble Park Utd
Park Ridge Reserve
Scotch Old Boys v Mooroolbark
H.A. Smith Reserve
Nunawading City v Ashburton
Mahoneys Road Reserve
Monash University v Fitzroy City
Monash University Sports Oval
Monbulk v Old Melburnians
Monbulk Recreation Reserve
Warragul Utd v White Star Dandenong
Baxter Park (Warragul)

PROVI NW 2
Hoppers Crossing v Brimbank City
Grange Reserve
North City Lions v Essendon Utd
Wallace Reserve
Keon Park v Northern Falcons
JC Donath Reserve
Collingwood City v Moreland Utd
Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Melton v Darebin Utd
MacPhersons Park
West Preston v Bell Park
Oulton Reserve

PROVI SE 2
Whitehorse Utd v Dandenong Sparrows
Terrara Park
Riversdale v Old Trinity Grammarians
Frog Hollow Reserve
Caulfield Utd v Old Camberwell Grammar
Victory Park
Keysborough v Carrum Utd
Coomoora Reserve
Old Brighton Grammarians v Mornington
Dendy Park
Lyndale Utd v Berwick Kings
Lyndale Secondary College

PROVI NW 3
Epping City v Dallas Eagles
Casa D'Abruzzo Club
Brimbank v Moreland Wolves
Italo-Australian Social Club
Northern Utd v Bundoora Utd
Anderson Reserve
Watsonia Heights v Ascot Vale
Gabonia Reserve
Youth Utd v Brunswick Zebras
Seth Raistrick Reserve
Mill Park v Surf Coast
Findon Reserve

PROVI SE 3
Dandenong City v Uni. of Melbourne
Frank Holohan Soccer Reserve
Beaumaris v Eltham North
Beaumaris Reserve
Noble Park v Endeavour Hills
Norman Luth Reserve
Bayside Argonauts v Keilor Wolves
Shipston Reserve
Seaford Utd v Dandenong Warriors
North Seaford Reserve

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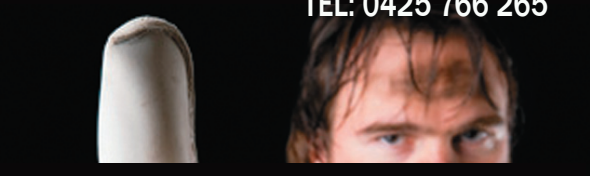

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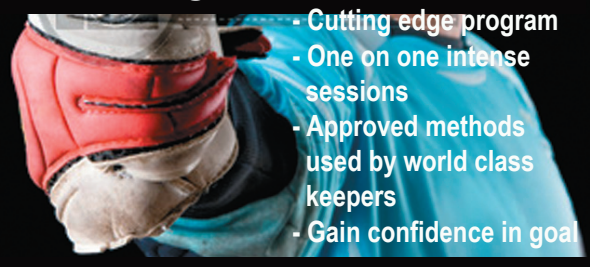

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Olyroos in Barcelona '92

THE BARCA BABES

Gallant Campaign that Launched the Best of Gen X

This year's Olyroos may not have achieved quite as much as they hoped and the more optimistic media commentators expected, but to be beaten narrowly by Argentina led by Lionel Messi, Juan Riquelme and Javier Maschareno is no disgrace.

In 1992 in Barcelona another generation of Olyroos turned in the best performance of any of our Olympic campaigns, reaching the Bronze medal match and losing very narrowly to Ghana by a single goal on that occasion.

In those days, Australia was still a member of the Oceania Confederation and the qualifying tournament involved matches against Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand. Australia won all six matches, home and away, conceding only one goal to New Zealand and scoring 17.

That brought up a two-leg play-off with European powerhouse Holland, which had one of its greatest constellations of young stars in its ranks, including Ronald de Boer, Arthur Numan, Philip Cocu, Marc Overmars and Gaston Taument. The first game in Sydney was a one-all draw after a Tony Vidmar goal in the first half was cancelled out when Shaun Murphy's attempt to clear from a corner kick hit the back of his head and deflected into the Olyroos' goal. That left Australia needing a miracle in Holland to reach Barcelona and it happened.

In the away game in Utrecht on Sunday 24 May 1992, Ned Zelic put Australia ahead just before half time. Australia's keeper John Filan and his defence denied wave after wave of Dutch attacks, but the Olyroos were 2-1 down in extra-time to goals from Ronald de Boer and Arthur Numan and staring at

Ned Zelic scores his first goal against Holland in Utrecht. Source: Soccer Australia, December 1992, p.7.

elimination in the last minute of the extra period. Then midfielder Zelic found himself wide out on the right wing and cut in along the bye-line. Everyone expected a cross but somehow he threaded the ball past the Dutch keeper Edwin Zoetebier on his near post from what was no angle at all. 'I was in two minds whether to cross or shoot, but I noticed the goalkeeper was off his mark and just went for it,' Zelic said afterwards. 'Everyone went crazy, there was water and bodies all over the place,' said a delighted Olyroos coach, Eddie Thomson, whom journalist Tom Anderson started calling 'Moses' after he led Australia out of the wilderness into the promised land.

The squad involved in the qualifying matches and the finals in Barcelona included Zlatko Arambasic, Milan Blagojevic, Mark Bosnich, Steve Corica, John Filan, John Gibson, Gary Hasler, Lorenz Kindtner, Dominic Longo, Brad Maloney, John Markovski, Damian Mori, Shaun Murphy, Paul Okon, Tony Popovic, Steve Refenes, David Seal, George Slifkas, Carl Veart, Tony Vidmar and Ned Zelic. Most of them were to go on the stellar careers with the Socceroos and many with top clubs in Europe.

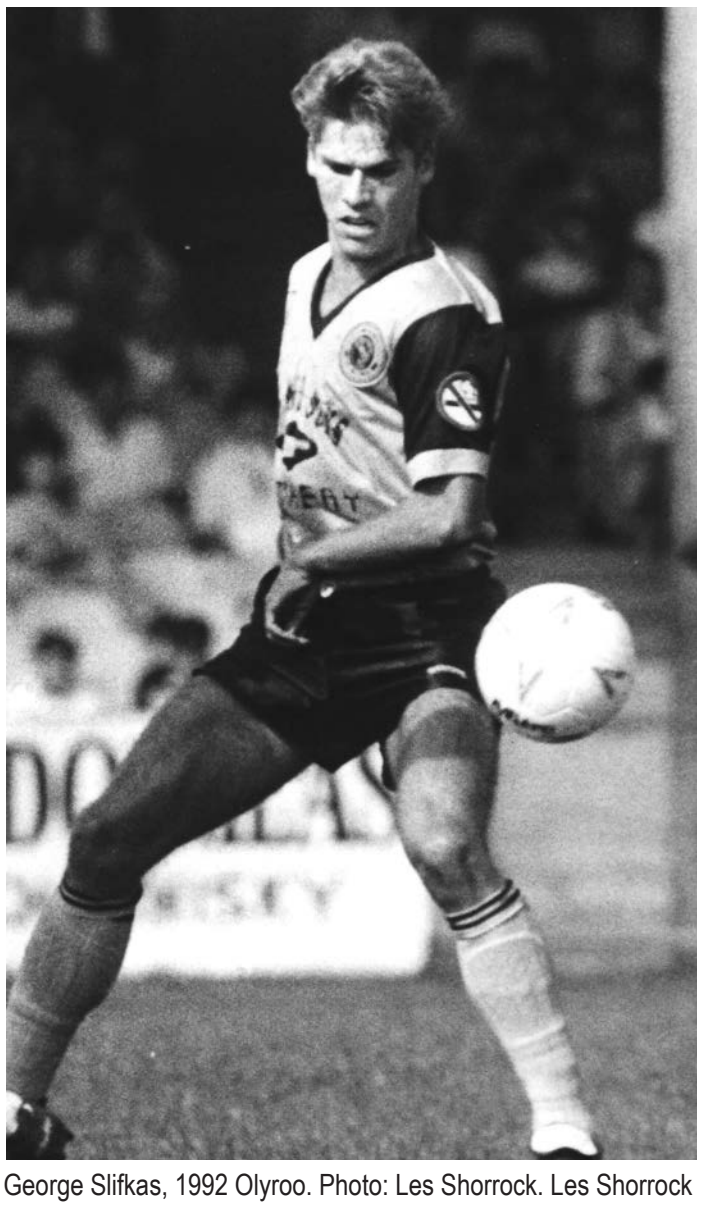
In Barcelona, Australia started with a three-one loss to Ghana, who were eventually to prove the Olyroos' nemesis in the tournament. Gargo scored early and it was one-nil in the 82nd minute, when Ayew scored the first of two late goals for Ghana. Tony Vidmar replied in the 90th minute. A gutsy one-all draw with Mexico followed, when Zlatko Arambasic scored in 23 minutes. So the final game with Denmark was critical. A nerveless performance with goals by 'Jonesy' Markovski, 'Frogger' Mori and Tony Vidmar again saw Australia through to the quarter-finals on goal difference from Mexico.

There the Olyroos met Sweden led by Thomas Brolin and the nucleus of the team which was to finish third in the World Cup in the USA only two years later. Brolin was injured and left the field after half-an-hour but Australia was already ahead through a Markovski half-volley from a Carl Veart cross. When big Shaun Murphy deflected another Vidmar shot for a second goal in 56 minutes, it looked all over, though Sweden did reply quickly through Andersson.

The semi-final against Poland was always going to be a tough battle and although Carl Veart cancelled out Juskowiak's opening goal, the Polish striker completed his hat-trick in a six-one demolition job. Somehow Australia bounced back in the bronze medal match, but Ghana scored the only goal through Asare. So the campaign ended without a medal but as Stephen Dettre of AAP said at the time, 'This indeed was one of Australian soccer's finest achievements.'

Words by Roy Hay

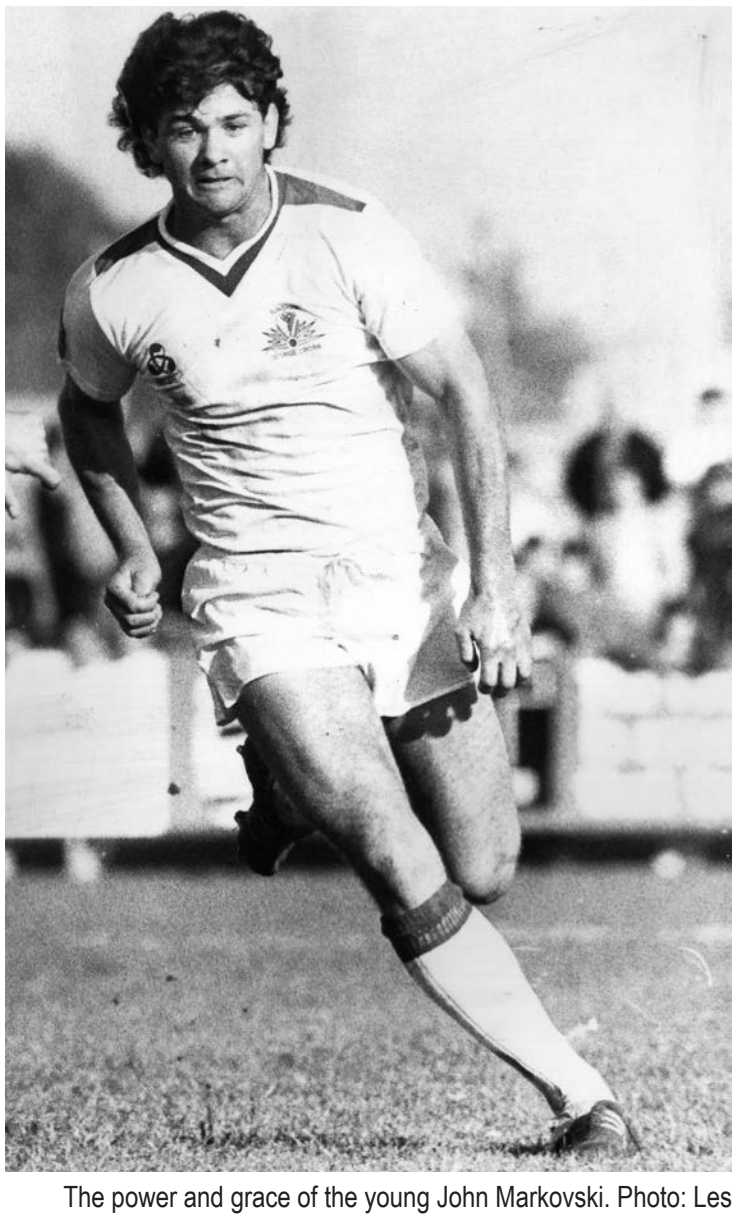
Photos sourced by Roy Hay



George Slifkas, 1992 Olyroo. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

A very young Ned Zelic. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

Eddie Thomson, the coach of the 1992 Olyroos. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.



The power and grace of the young John Markovski. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric

It's been another tumultuous week in Victorian football. I'm just hoping I can get through this column without being disrupted by a power failure.

The lights went out again during the week, this time at Knights Stadium as Melbourne Knights hosted Oakleigh Cannons, in a game that had been originally postponed due to a waterlogged pitch back on July 27th. So now they will have to come back and have another crack at it after the final round of the season. As will Coburg and Frankston Pines who had a game postponed last weekend which couldn't be played during the week as Coburg already had the replay of their lights out game at Altona Magic scheduled.

The lights went out at Altona back on July 26th. Both of the games played midweek last week could have been scheduled to have been played a week, or two earlier. This would have left last week free for any misshaps like lights failures and rain.

Now to some of you, this may seem pretty obvious. With both Knights and Coburg playing out of Knights Stadium, a ground which already had two wet-weather postponements this season, scheduling their catch-up games so late in the piece may even seem irresponsible to some of you. That's because you have half a brain, a fact that means you are over-qualified to work for an organisation like our esteemed Football Federation Victoria.

As well as having two postponed senior games, Knights Stadium has also had two under 21's matches abandoned at the first hint of rain. So even Stevie Wonder saw it coming that last weeks game between Coburg and Frankston would be rained off. The man is a musical genius and as such doesn't lack any money, but if he needed a day job I'm sure he couldn't make any more of a mess of the FFV offices in Darebin than those who are destroying the place at the moment.

The finals picture may not be made clear until Tuesday. That is if the Finals go ahead, after the recent meeting of clubs resolved a boycott. Like Craig Mottram and the American 4x100m relay teams, Victorian football is now officially a laughing stock.

In the top left corner of the Foxtel Cup website, there is a regular poll on topics concerning the VPL, like "Can Preston hold on to a top six spot?" and "Who will qualify for the Grand Final?" With the FFV ringing around the VPL club presidents last week seeking opinions on how to handle the Knights v Oakleigh situation, perhaps they should also have put that topic up as a poll so we could all participate in the decision making process.

And now for something completely different: In between taking hot shots at Foxtel Cup games, GW photographer Brett Robson managed to squeeze in a date with Megan Gale and Miranda Kerr at the David Jones Launch recently.

Congratulations to Sunshine George Cross (and that's what they should be called, not Georgies you FFV muppets!) on securing promotion back to the Premier League. Well done also to Northcote City on securing the State League Division Two South East Championship. It is good to see that someone out of that complex in Darebin knows something about football.

KATSA'S KORNER

With George Katsamboukas

KATSA'S KORNER 7-25

IT'S ALL GONE PETE TONG

The Darebin Debacle continues again this week where….

The standoff between Foxtel Cup Clubs and the House of Darebin continues, with the Foxtel Cup Clubs still digging their heels in after voting to boycott the Foxtel Cup Finals as well as the Gold Medal Night.

But wait, there's more with the State League South East Clubs throwing their support behind the Foxtel Cup Clubs at a specially meeting convened at the Eastern Lions.

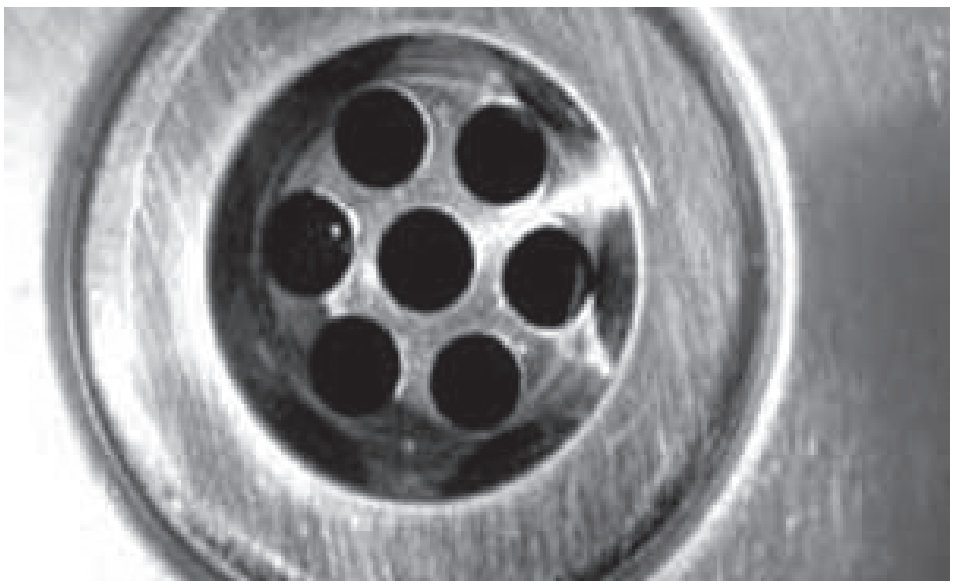
What I suspected many J Walkers ago was confirmed at this meeting, and that was that the various clubs who fall under the House of Darebin's Umbrella, have not only no voting rights, but also have no say as to the direction of Soccer in Victoria.

The only negative part of this meeting was that I had to go without a W N Field for 2 hours!

Club Powerbrokers, next time you spend countless of your hours at your particular Club to raise money, rest easy as your hard work goes rewarded, in that it will allow your Club to pay the various fees charged by the House of Darebin, who are merely part of the FFA's grand plan of Soccer in Australia.

And that Grand plan is…..

To ethnically cleanse all clubs, and bring in policies to develop "Elite Players".



If you look closely enough you can see the 2008 season and Victorian football....

I've spoken about point 1 many times; there is no need to repeat my views on this topic.

However, point 2 and that is the development of "Elite" Players, sounds very good in practice, but where will they play, as the pathways and opportunities here in Australia are limited.

Overseas is an option; however these overseas clubs are not waiting in hope for the next Aussie superstar to go over there, as they already have many talented players there already.

Club Powerbrokers, guess where the House of Darebin will find the $$$$ for their "Master Plan?"

Quite simple, your Clubs will fund it, and as an extra ball, their attitude is if you do not like it, lump it!

I have written this many times before, and that is that Victorian Soccer is at the cross roads.

Clubs are not satisfied with their Lot and treatment from the House of Darebin, and the ironic thing is that it is these Clubs who are funding Soccer in this State.

FFV Commissioners, time that you either step in or resign, as your customers, Victorian Soccer Club's are from what I am hearing and reading, not very happy campers!

Clubs need to gain control of their destiny once again!

STATE ONE HONOURS

Over to State 1 we go, where the Sunshine Georgie's have booked their ticket to the Foxtel Cup in 2008.

After a year in State 1, the Georgies have bounced back and returned to the Foxtel Cup competition in 2009.

The much anticipated clash between Dandy Thunder and Southern Stars ended in a 1-1 Draw, meaning that the second promotion spot is still up for grabs, with 2 rounds remaining.

The Northcote Boys gave new meaning to the term "Happy End" this weekend after they were crowned State 2 South East Champions for 2008, and they will return to State 1 Soccer after 2 years.

The Fat Lady had to wait till the 94th Minute to sing after Eddie Soares scored the all important goal last weekend against South Springvale.

A very consistent team during the year and all credit must go to Coach Peter "Gus" Tsolakis the Committee and Players for turning the team around from a very low position in 2007, to Champions in 2008.

As for the Foxtel Cup Top 6 composition, well it really does not matter as from the looks of things; there will be no Finals Series in 2008.

Until next week.

This is Katsa – Just as you've known him.

And remember –Mixing J Walker with Dim Sims can have an ugly ending!

BEREFT

Notwithstanding that common sense, being thrown out the window last week, should have any part to play in this week's edition, however, alas, since I started watching Christopher Walken movies again, last week, common sense will have to take another back seat this week, and let the fun, begin.

The Deer Hunter was one of, if not the best, movie on the Vietnam War, its purpose, and more importantly, its side effects on those involved directly or indirectly.
The acting is on a class of its own, and if it became by some chance, a Broadway production, it would make an incredible musical.

Christopher Walken, is, a living legend.

Toy companies should be making Christopher Walken dolls.
He should be appearing in at least 20 commercials a day.
The man can dance like Ginger Rogers with a side serving of a Jersey Fred Astaire, just ask Fat Boy Slim.
His hair is a phenomenon.
Mozart would write an opera about him, and title it Don Fantastico.
Is Don, is good.

If you haven't seen anything with Christopher Walken, than, you shouldn't, by right, be able to live with yourself.
In case you haven't noticed, I'm actually writing this, in Christopher Walken.
Kevin Spacey does an awesome Han Solo, in the style of, Christopher Walken.

The Best.

Go and see The Magic Flute, you goose.
Then go and watch True Romance, and see Vincent Coccodi in fine fiddle, you cantaloupe.

FEDERACION

It sounds so much better in Espanol.
In Deutsche you would call it Bund.
James Bund.

Unfortunately the least can be said about our supposed State Football "Fed".
When it was still called the V.S.F, it ran so much more smoothly, tolerated ethnic minorities, and didn't condescend to BOOK/SEND OFF and subsequently fine a 10 year old $100, because the goalkeeper wandered outside the box with the ball in his hands.

What the crapfire is their major malfunction?

Do they enjoy negative press, or are they seriously that confutatis maledictis, fale sacremus adictis, that they believe collecting cash from parents and clubs will improve the state of the game?
Truth be known, the majority of "Fed" referees are becoming nothing more than parking inspectors/collection agents for the "boss".

WATERFALL

I wish I would be writing about the best Stone Roses song, but alas, it's still a rant against bureaucratic bungling and a tad too much "supposed" palm greasing betwixt members of the echelons.

Break away Leagues, rumours a rife, maybe there is a wind that is blowing a different way, and a true revolution is about to break forth.
We need more Mel Brooks, Blake Edwards and Groucho Marx way up up up up up in the hierarchy, dictating terms.
If you think I'm joking, you obviously don't know humour.

I know funny, I look at myself once a day, every day, in the mirror.
Muahahahahaha.
That is an absolute kak.

Robot Chicken is an absolute scream.
Apart from the bok bok references at the end of every episode, the laughs are thick and hard, fast and freaky, just a tad left of centre, and sunny side up.

OH LIMP EEKS

Sure, the medals aren't for real, but go figure, the Games aren't real.
I already gave my two cents a few weeks ago concerning the fallacy of the the I.O.C, and the nonsense we deal with every 4 years through the veil of Channel 7 and biased sports coverage.
Again, thank goodness for SBS, and kudos for not giving Craig Foster a segment on it with his "Chief" analytical views on anything.
Himmler, Hess and he should get a room.

The diving was alright, along with some of the running and gymnastics.
Seriously couldn't be flogged watching Mountain/BMX/Velodrome riding, and the nail and teeth pulling table tennis certainly didn't pump my nads.
That backyard, garage, time wasting "sport" should stay inside people's homes, and not in front of 10,000 empty seats.

If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes on the Les Digtitalis per sans Ch 7, I wouldn't have believed it if I was told that a country which holds 1,300,000,000 people (currently) could find it difficult to fill a stadium, which by rights, should be full every day, by babies being born, popped, and or, squeezed out in said country.

The silly folk of the nether regions believed that Beijing would've topped Sydney, in terms of "the best" Olympics" ever. But quite frankly, that's what the silly folk from the nether regions said after Melbourne in 1956. That's why the nether region folk are still hobbits, albeit rich hobbits.

DIGRESSION

Craig Johnston was the best Aussie export.
Hair like a waterfall, cascading down his shoulders, as he scissor kicked the air after scoring against Everton in 1986.
Wow.

Remember the Predator boots which did absolutely nothing but look cool?
At least he wrote the Anfield rap…

GOODFELLAS

Where are they mate?
The Gen X is becoming a Gen EX.

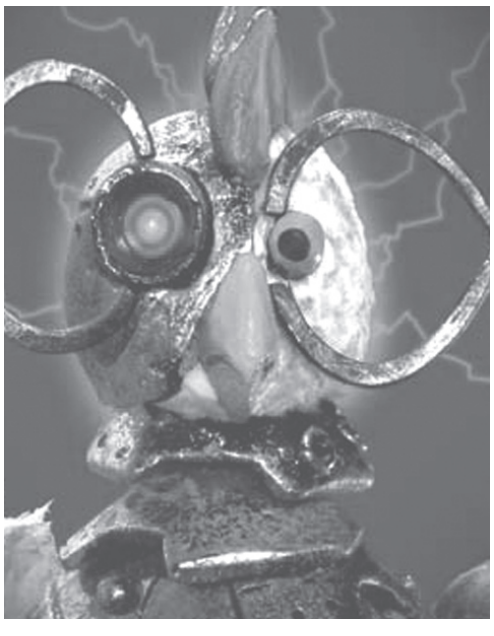
EPILOGUE

Next week, without reservation, malice, but plenty of forethought, I'm presenting to you the Magnificent Seven.
A tribute, an ode, to whom I believe are the goalkeepers of yesterday, today and tomorrow.
A round up of the kajmak of VPL/NSL custodians.
The ones who grace the green and stands of grounds around towns in Victoria.
You probably won't agree with my selection, and that's cool, free speech and free Willy.

What is important, is that you realise that Goalkeepers are the cement that holds every smooth footpath.
The mortar in the crack of every castle.
The salt in every ocean.

I can't be more biased than that.
Until then, remember the heart is the seat of the mind.

SPQR
BBQ
MR.T
G.I JOE With a Kung Fu Grip;
Tsigan Utd FC



METROSTARS CHANGE THE GUARD

Super League Front Runners Battle For Cup Glory

The 2008 FFSA Cup Final saw a changing of the guard as MetroStars turned the tables on their old foes Adelaide City, toppling the 2006 and 2007 cup holders with a 1-0 defeat at Hindmarsh stadium.

In what was a reversal of last years final, the two Super League front runners played out a tough match, both teams with surprise inclusions for the big game. MetroStars welcomed back dynamite midfielder Louis Brain, returning from Victorian League club Dandenong Thunder and Adelaide City's Johnathon Negus returning from his very speedy recovery of three broken ribs and a punctured lung sustained only three weeks ago in a match against Modbury Jets.

Metrostar's road to the final was relatively smooth; trouncing Adelaide Cobras 11-1 in Round 2, downing Salisbury United 7-1 in Round 3, beating Modbury Jets 2-0 in the Quarter Finals and coming away victorious against Western Strikers 3-1 in the Semis. Adelaide City had a tighter journey comprehensively beating International Mt Gambier 13-0, narrowly beating Raiders 1-0 in Round 3, Mori scoring a brace against Campbelltown 2-0 in the Quarters and just escaping a last minute chance by Adelaide Eagles to defeat them 2-1 in the Semis.

MetroStars started the game with a voracious appetite to attack, setting the pace and their intentions early on in the game. Their game plan was evident from the start, starve City's dangerous duo Damian Mori and Patrick DeRuvo of the ball and win the game. With tight defending and extra attention that's exactly what MetroStars defence of Lee Robertson, Michelle Lastella, Dave Menechella and Captain Ivan Karlovic put in place, keeping the Black and White's strike force quiet.

The attacking verve of the MetroStars was rewarded in the 21st minute when midfielder Michael Pirone capped off a great run down the middle of the park, drilling the ball in for a shot to be deflected by City's keeper Ben Moore into the path of the oncoming Pirone who followed through with a bullet into the back of the net. MetroStars maintained their attack for the remainder of the first stanza, with James Yong, Scott Tunbridge, Andrew Ciarla, Jim Stavrides and Louis Brain all hugely contributing to the fast paced game. A good chance for City to equalize came late towards the end of the half, when MetroStars keeper Daniel Godley came off his line, the ball loose in the goal mouth, the Metros defence being forced to quickly pounce on it to clear it away.

Michael Pirone soul goal scorer for the 2008 FFSA Cup Final.

Adelaide City came out a little more physical in the second half, needing to do a lot of work to break down the strength of their opponents across the park. As did in last year's final, the Black & White's were struck with an injury occurring in the 57th minute. As luck started to turn for City, getting a run on in play, Mori and Lastella went up to challenge for the ball, clashing and both coming down very hard onto the turf. Mori's unmoving body indicated something more than just a knock had transpired and as he was assisted to his feet minutes later by trainers, the crowd could see the dislocation of his right shoulder was the unfortunate result. With Mori now out of the game and on his way to hospital, the young Jace Cummins took his place on the pitch and City were now playing for their coach and mentor Mori, as well as for their third successive title.

At the 70th minute mark a build up by City's midfield found Nick Budin taking a mighty crack at goal, beating Godley but courageously his shot was stopped right on the line by Lastella. The ball remained on the line motionless for what seemed to be an eternity, until the Metros defence booted it away to safety. MetroStars coach Michael Barnett then made two changes in ten minutes bringing on fresh legs of Daniel Spagnuolo and David Terminello for goal scorer Michael Pirone and James Yong.

Adelaide City's Patrick DeRuvo who was effectively kept out of the match, was replaced with Negus to try to inject some firepower late in the game. But MetroStars kept up their intensity, the determination to not give up their lead or the Cup title priority number one. In the 83rd minute Jim Stavrides who had been an integral part of the engine room of MetroStars, was presented with the opportunity to put his side 2-0 up as he charged towards keeper Moore, choosing unselfishly to pass to Tunbridge who missed the target. As the final whistle blew it was the mighty MetroStars who were victorious and triumphant, in what is panning out to be the year of their return to the top

The medal for Best Player of the Match and well-earned went to MetroStars Andrew Ciarla, a young 'gun' that has had a fantastic season throughout and turns on some very mature and creative football when he plays, a player we will hear a lot about in the future. While the match was not a spectacular performance by both teams, it was a great display of tough, evenly matched football between the top two teams in South Australia, with MetroStars holding up the cup for the second time since 2004.

In the FFSA Reserves Cup Final, Premier League promoted club Western Strikers capped off a great season with a 2-1 win in extra time over Croydon Kings after scores were locked away at 1-1 at the full time whistle. Goals scorers for the match were Lukacz Krawczynski scoring both for the Strikers, earning him the Man of the Match Medal and Chris Adcock who was brought on as a substitute, was red carded in the match and scored the single for the Kings.

The FFSA Under 19 Cup Final that also went to extra time saw the Croydon Kings take something positive out of their 2008 season for the club with a 3-2 win over MetroStars. Goal scorers for Metros were R Callisto and D Mat and for the Kings were M Grevelis, J Dimasi and Frank Violi who also won the Man of the Match Medal.

Over the next 4 weeks the Devine Homes Final 5 Series and Top 5 Challenge will take place to see who takes the honours for the 2008 FFSA Men's Football Season in all three leagues.

By Nat Adamopoulos

Photo by George Manos

FFSA RESULTS

2008 FFSA CUP FINAL

MetroStars 1 (M.Pirone) Adelaide City 0 (HT 1-0)

Man of the Match – A.Ciarla (MetroStars)

MetroStars – Godley, Menechella, Karlovic, Robertson, Stavrides, Brian, Lastella, Tunbridge, Ciarla, Yong, Pirone.
Subs used – Terminello, Spagnuolo, Sarris
Subs not used – Rende, Costa

Adel City – Moore, D'Arcy, Nash, Gooding, Mori, Agius, DeRuvo, Pezos, Rees, Paladino, Budin.
Subs used – Cummins, Negus
Subs not used – Chinnick, Woods, Ostbye

Yellow Cards – MetroStars – Karlovic, Stavrides
Yellow Cards – Adel City – Gooding, Budin

RESERVES CUP
Western Strikers 2 (L.Krawczynski 2)
Croydon 1 (C.Adcock) (HT 1-0)
Full time – 1-1
After Extra Time 2-1

FOOTBALL WEST STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sorrento FC	18	11	4	3	50	28	22	37
Floreat Athena	18	11	3	4	35	19	16	36
Perth	17	10	4	3	39	26	13	34
Inglewood Utd	17	9	4	4	31	25	6	31
Mandurah City	18	8	5	5	51	34	17	29
Stirling Lions	18	7	4	7	36	27	9	25
Cockburn City	18	7	4	7	35	41	-6	25
Swan I.C. SC	18	7	3	8	37	39	-2	24
ECU Joondalup	18	6	3	9	38	38	0	21
Western Knights	18	5	3	10	27	41	-14	18
Armadale SC	18	3	4	11	18	46	-28	13
Fremantle SC	18	0	5	13	17	50	-33	5

RESULTS

Floreat Athena 3(OG6'Vatistas19'Scott21') Sorrento FC 0;
Mandurah City 2(O'Callaghan48'55p)
Armadale 2(Madeley52'Robinson74');
Swan IC 3(Djukasovic18'Scali72'78') Fremantle Spirit 1(Roberts13');
Western Knights 2(Fearon27'Micevski60')
Cockburn City 1(Calean29');
ECU Joondalup 1(Amphlett17') Stirling Lions 4(Porter37'Boi45'Cleavenger47'Rhodes70');

GLORY'S NEW NUMBER ONE

Perth Glory has significantly strengthened their supporter base with Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Stephen Smith MP, accepting the position as the club's number one ticket holder for the 2008/09 Hyundai A-League season.

Mr Smith is no stranger to the round ball game, having supported the Glory since the club's inception, and was officially welcomed to the team by Glory owners Mr Tony Sage and Mr Brett McKeon at Perth's season launch.

The Federal Member for Perth was given a rousing reception by the large contingent of sponsors, corporate partners, players and coaching staff when presented with his very own playing shirt and number one membership card.

"I'm very proud to be the Number One ticket holder for Perth Glory," said Mr Smith.

"As Australia's Foreign Minister I am pleased to be able to help take Perth Glory to the world."

Mr Smith said he will closely follow the progress of the team and is looking forward to attending as many games as possible throughout the season.

By Mark White

Photo by Perth Glory FC

Perth Glory's Brett McKeon with the Hon. Stephen Smith MP, and Tony Sage

WOLLONGONG SECURE GRAND FINAL SPOT, MANLY OUT

Wollongong FC have become the first team to book a place in the TeleChoice NSW Premier League grand final after overcoming premiers Sutherland 2-1 in extra time at Seymour Shaw Park.

As many had predicted, Sutherland struggled in the absence of their first-choice centre-half pairing of George Souris (injured) and Pedj Bojic (moved to the A-League). In their stead, midfielder Phil Jablonski and the young Michael Robinson looked shaky at times against the confident side from the Illawarra.

Nevertheless, it was the home side who took the lead, with Brad Boardman showing he can play provider as well as scorer, holding the ball up skillfully on the goal-line before playing it across goal into the path of Jim Bakis, who netted for Sutherland.

It wasn't enough, as Wollongong took advantage of Sutherland's makeshift backline to equalize before slotting home the winner in extra time, as the home side began to tire.

In the "second" semi-final, Olympic dispatched Manly 2-1 at Belmore to earn a crack at Sutherland next week for a place in the final. Phil Moss's Manly side, meanwhile, can look back on a season in which they surprised many and won plenty of friends.

Olympic went on the attack from the outset and were much the better side in the first half, although a Paul Wither strike in the 31st minute following a set-piece was all they had to show for their dominance at the break.

Michael Lloyd-Green equalized for Manly shortly after the interval, but it was the tall Wither to the rescue for Olympic with another headed goal from a set-piece shortly after the hour. There were no more goals.

Next week's preliminary final between Sutherland and Olympic is very hard to call. Both teams are missing perhaps their key players of the season: Olympic will be without the services of Shannon Cole (who was present, nevertheless, at the match against Manly, and warmly applauded by the spectators on coming onto the field to draw the winner of the match raffle!). Nevertheless, his delivery from free kicks and corners might not be overly missed, given that Olympic managed two goals against Manly in this fashion…

Sutherland's problems are perhaps more serious, given that they have been deprived of their two jewels at the back, the tough, experienced Souris and the elegant, venturesome Bojic. To make matters worse, two of their younger stars appeared to have lost form against Wollongong; Brendan Gan, such an important purveyor of goals for Sutherland this season, missed plenty of good chances against John Turner's side, while Matthew Hall did not quite show the sharpness that he has demonstrated in previous encounters (not least Sutherland's pre-A-League friendly against Sydney FC, in which he scored a stunning solo goal).

It will be an intriguing battle.

goal! Weekly

TeleChoice The People's Choice

FOOTBALL NSW

TELECHOICE RESULTS

ELIMINATION SEMI FINALS:
FIRST GRADE: Manly United FC 2 (Craig Midgley x 2) Sydney United 1 (Luka Glavas x 1).

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINALS:
FIRST GRADE: Wollongong FC 3 (Ilija Prenzoski x 2 Matthew Bailey x 1) Sydney Olympic 2 (Siraj-Al Tall x 1 Matthew Mayora x 1).

SEMI FINALS: MAJOR SEMI FINAL:
Sutherland Sharks 1 (Jim Bakis 10m) Wollongong FC 2 (Matthew Bailey 66m Ilija Prenzoski 116m) E/T (1-1 F/T).

MINOR SEMI FINAL
Sydney Olympic 2 (Paul Wither 35/60m) Manly United FC 1 (Michael Lloyd-Green 48m).

FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Sutherland Sharks	22	12	8	2	48	19	29	44
Wollongong FC	22	13	5	4	39	19	20	44
Sydney Olympic	22	12	5	5	38	23	15	41
Manly United FC	22	12	3	7	42	21	21	39
Sydney United	22	9	7	6	29	21	8	34
A.P.I.A Leichhardt	22	9	7	6	41	35	6	34
Bankstown City	22	7	6	9	27	27	0	27
West Sydney Berries	22	7	3	12	30	41	-11	24
Marconi Stallions	22	3	10	9	29	41	-12	19
Macarthur Rams	22	4	7	11	16	41	-25	19
Penrith Nepean United	22	3	8	11	25	50	-25	17
Blacktown City	22	3	7	12	14	40	-26	16

By Mike Salter

Photo by FFNSW

STH HOBART IN SEVENTH HEAVEN

South Hobart won the Southern Tasmanian Premier League title after beating second-last and relegated Metro 7-0 at home at Washington Street on Saturday in their final league match of the season.

The win put South Hobart six points ahead of second-placed Tilford Zebras, whose final match was scheduled for the following day, away to seventh-placed New Town Eagles.

Even if Zebras win, they will finish three points adrift of the champions.

It was the first league title for South Hobart since 2002 and the first under the coaching of Ken Morton.

Morton is, of course, the most experienced coach in Tasmania. He has taken other clubs such as Hobart Olympic, Rapid and Zebras to league title and has worked extensively in Malaysia, Vietnam, the Maldives and Ethiopia.

Metro were never in the hunt against South Hobart, who needed just a draw in this 133rd meeting of the clubs, to lift the title.

Metro fell behind in the first minute through a penalty, awarded for a handball by Mohand Rahni and despatched by Hugh Ludford.

David Cooper made it 2-0 in the 7th minute, while David Abbott added the third in the 27th minute following a quick counter-attack by South.

When Greg Downes swept home the fourth in the 41st minute, the title was all but South's. Downes had just returned from the UK, where he had trials with Sunderland and Walsall.

Shae Hickey extended South's lead three minutes after the break, while Liam Scott, on the verge of selection for the Joeys, made it 6-o in the 66th minute.

Substitute Simon Burrett added the seventh goal 12 minutes from the end.

Metro's Scottish import, Steve Pettit, was a lost soul in this game. Starved of service, he was unable to stamp his influence on the match.

South Hobart are the 2008 Southern Tasmanian Premier League Champions

Metro captain, Terry Kent, was superb. The veteran sweeper did not waste a pass and read the game to perfection, but, unfortunately for Metro, there was only one of him.

Sixth-placed Clarence United made sure of avoiding eighth spot and a promotion/relegation play-off by trouncing fifth-placed University 6-2 at home at Wentworth Park on Saturday.

Dwayne Walsh hit a hat-trick, while Mattias Toghill, Jacob Huigsloot and Chris Hunt grabbed the other goals.

Aaron Hindmarsh, with a thunderbolt from 30 metres, and Luke Temby replied for the Students.

Fourth-placed Glenorchy Knights finished their disappointing season with a 1-0 loss at home to third-ranked Hobart Olympic at KGV Park.

The winner came in the final minute from substitute Emmanuel Tsakiris, who was put through the defence by fellow substitute, Dipendra Kunwar.

Knights goalkeeper Ben Peter had kept his side in the match with brilliant saves against Kosta Grillas, Frederick Assenheimer and Aaron Percy.

Devonport City, the Northern Tasmanian Premier League champions, finished their league campaign with a 4-1 home win against Burnie United at Valley Road.

Launceston City finished on a high note with a 4-2 triumph over Prospect Knights, and Somerset overcame Riverside Olympic 2-1 away in Launceston.

Devonport and South Hobart will now meet twice in the next couple of weeks.

Next weekend, they meet in the final of the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy State-wide competition, while the week after that, they play for the Tasmanian State title, which, surprisingly, is just a one-legged affair.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION TASMANIA

SOUTH TPL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	18	14	2	2	56	13	44
Tilford Zebras	17	12	2	3	67	26	38
Hobart Olympic	18	11	3	4	46	34	36
Glen Knights	18	9	2	7	39	31	29
Clarence United	18	8	2	8	33	36	26
University	17	7	4	6	32	34	25
NT Eagles	17	5	4	8	27	28	20
King Lions Utd	16	4	5	7	25	40	17
Metro	18	2	2	14	23	56	8
Taroona	17	0	3	14	16	67	3

Glenorchy Knights 0-1 Hobart Olympic
South Hobart 7-0 Metro
Clarence United 6-2 University

NORTH TPL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devonport City	16	14	1	1	59	14	43
Nthn Rangers	15	8	5	2	41	18	29
Somerset	16	9	1	6	43	24	28
Prosp Knights	16	9	1	6	35	28	28
Burnie United	16	7	5	4	34	37	26
Rivers Olympic	16	5	2	9	31	37	17
Launceston C	16	4	4	8	27	35	16
Ulverstone	15	2	2	11	16	46	8
Launceston U	16	2	1	13	17	64	7

Devonport City 4-1 Burnie United
Launceston City 4-2 Prospect Knights
Riverside Olympic 1-2 Somerset

By Walter Pless

Photos by Walter Pless

FOXTEL CUP
The Victorian Football Show
Every Wednesday C31 8pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday C31 10.30am

World Game Football Show
88.6 FM Plenty Valley
11am Every Saturday

FOXTEL - EPL

Tues Aug 26 **Portsmouth v Man United**
4.55 am Fox 2
Sat Aug 30 **Everton v Portsmouth**
11.55 pm Fox 3
Sat Aug 30 **West Ham v Blackburn**
11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Aug 30 **Bolton v West Brom**
11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Aug 30 **Middlesbrough v Stoke**
11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Aug 30 **Hull v Wigan**
11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sun Aug 31 **Arsenal v Newcastle**
2.25 am Fox 3
Sun Aug 31 **Chelsea v Tottenham**
10.25 pm Fox 2
Mon Sep 1 **Aston Villa v Liverpool**
12.55 am Fox 2

Coca-Cola Championship
Sat Aug 30 **Southampton v Blackpool**
9.30 pm Fox 3
Sun Aug 31 **Watford v Ipswich**
2.15 am Fox 2

SETANTA

UEFA Champions League Qualifier
Thursday 28th August
Liverpool vs Standard Liege
LIVE 5am (replay 4.15pm)

Copa Sudamericana
Thursday 28th August
Sao Paulo vs Paranaense
LIVE 10.45am

Thursday 4th September
Montagua vs Arsenal
LIVE 10.10am

Blue Square Premier League
Tuesday 26th August
Cambridge vs Kettering
LIVE 1.00am

Scottish Premier League
Sunday 31st August
Celtic vs Rangers
LIVE 8.30pm

German Bundesliga
Saturday 30th August
Karlsruher vs Koln
LIVE 4.00am

Saturday 30th August
Schalke 04 vs Bochum
LIVE 11.30pm

French Ligue 1
Monday 25th August
Bordeaux vs Nantes
LIVE 5.00am (replay 4.15pm)

Sunday 31st August
Marseille vs Sochaux
1st Airing 2.00pm

Monday 1st September
St Etienne vs Lyon
LIVE 4.55am

Italian Serie A
Sunday 31st August
Udinese vs Palermo
1st Airing 10.00am

Sunday 31st August
ISampdoria vs Inter Milan
1st Airing 12.00pm

SYDENHAM SET TO GO NUTS

Title In Sight For Old Skool Crew

SYDENHAM Park coach Tony "Nuts" Neceski and his players are pumped-to-the-maximum as they gun for the ultimate glory in the Victorian State League 3 north-west competition.

The championship is well and truly within grasp, with the red and yellows locked in a battle with the Geelong Rangers at the top of the ladder with three home and away rounds to be played.

They are level on 34 points with nine wins, seven draws and three losses after 19 rounds. Sydenham Park has its nose just in front on goal difference, plus 16 goals to plus 15 - 35 goals for and 19 against to 44 and 29.

What an enthralling race for top spot it continues to be. Fittingly, there's an intriguing twist in the battle for the top prize, too. Guess which teams will go head-to-head in the very last round of the season?

Yep, Sydenham Park and the Geelong Rangers at Myers Reserve. What a blockbuster that prom ises to be, especially if the result determines the winner of the championship.

It's an exciting time for the boys from Keilor Lodge Reserve, who endured a miserable start to the season.

There's a good mix of experience and youth in Neceski's line-up. One-time National Soccer League champs Lubo Lapsansky and John Markovski have played valuable roles after being coaxed out of retirement.

Lapsansky, who enjoyed many splendid moments in the midfield for the Melbourne Knights in the old NSL in the 1990s, is thrilled to be strutting his stuff.

''(It's) been great. They are a good bunch of boys,'' he said. ''I'm there to help out the kids. I've scored a goal here and there, which has been a bit of fun. I'm not there to prove anything.''

Markovski, a one-time Socceroo and 350-gamer in the NSL, has had to scale back his appearances after accepting the coaching role at the Preston Lions in the Victorian Foxtel Cup last month.

But the big fella was one of the best players in the side's 2-0 win over Laverton Park at Laverton Park Reserve in the recent 19th round.

''John plays when he can. It's full credit to him because he's had a lot on his plate,'' Neceski said.

Other important players have included defensive midfielder Darryl Spiteri and striker Steve Stojanovski.

The likes of Toni Kutlesovski and Peco Dimovski have also caught the eye.

Not surprisingly, club president Kire Lavcanski can't contain his delight about the side's stunning rise to prominence.

''It's going great at the moment,'' he said.

''The boys are doing too good. Hopefully, they can keep it up for the next three games.

''The boys are all playing as one, which really makes the team. They're all very close. The whole team has been playing terrific; they're all performing.''

Lavcanski praised first-year coach Neceski.

''He's changed the environment (among the squad),'' he said. ''He's very good. All the boys like him. He's given a lot of the young ones opportunities.''

A one-time star for the Green Gully Cavaliers in the old Victorian Premier League, Neceski was signed to play for Sydenham Park but injured his knee early in the season.

He put his hand up for the coaching job after Peter Stojevski quit as coach after the side had managed only three draws from the first six games.

The side has been unbeaten for 13 rounds, winning nine games and drawing four, in an incredible run.

Neceski and his players are made of the right stuff. They have refused to be caught up in the controversy surrounding the possibility they may be forced off their home pitch by Brimbank Council.

Club secretary Aleksandar Capaculovski praised the determination being displayed by the players.

''Everyone is fighting for each other. (They) just want to prove we can go all the way,'' he said. ''So far, so good.''

Sydenham Park played highly-rated Westvale Olympic in a danger game at McKechnie Reserve in the 20th round last Saturday.

They host Yarraville Glory at Keilor Lodge Reserve the this Saturday before the blockbuster against the Geelong Rangers in the 22nd round the following Saturday, which promises to decide the championship.

Little seperates the championship contenders, who played out a 2-2 draw at Keilor Lodge in the 11th round.

By Steven Milne

Photos by John Attard

Former Socceroo John Markovski (centre) in action for title chasing Sydenham Park against Werribee earlier this season

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Results & Ladders

MENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE: Glen Waverley 1 (M(Nanos) Meadow Park 1 (D Magro), St. Kevins 0 Broadmeadows Utd 5 (H Unal S Gorgun S Saygili 2 G Aksakal), Darebin Legends 1 (R Al-Fetlawi) Upfield 7 (E Gul E Kondo RR Ottone D Al Mugoter 2 A Al Mugoter 2), Ringwood City 5 (D Stephens S Harrison T Nzenza J Lual Lual S Vukicevic) Caulfield Grammarians 0, Reservoir Strikers 1 (M Shammary) East Bentleigh 5 (L Brooks 2 J Shaw F Manilardi M Koukouras), Res: Glen Waverley 1 Meadow Park 0, St. Kevins 5 Broadmeadows Utd 0, Darebin Legends 3 Upfield 4, Ringwood City 5 Caulfield Grammarians 0, Reservoir Strikers 0 East Bentleigh 1

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE: Div 1: Whitehorse Utd 1 (T Armen) Uni. of Melbourne 0, Whittlesea Zebras 1 (E Fazlioglu) Monbulk 1 (R Saber), Bayswater Strikers 0 GRFA 3 (L Salaviejus F Jacobsen), Brighton 0 Ballarat Strikers 2 (BL Taylor), Res: Whitehorse Utd 2 Uni. of Melbourne 0, Whittlesea Zebras 3 Monbulk 0, Bayswater Strikers 1 GRFA 1, Brighton 4 Ballarat Strikers 3

Div 2 North-West: Melbourne Bears 1 (C Akbulat) Fawkner Blues 2, Bundoora Utd La Trobe University , Altona City 2 Darebin Falcons 0, Melton 3 (M Fuller KK Thompson 2) Port Melbourne 3 (K Emmanouilides 2 J Meletis), Brunswick Zebras 0 North Geelong 4 (L Grabowski 2 J Zdelar M Medved)

Div 2 South-East: Berwick City 2 (J Cary 2) Sandringham 0, Knox Utd 3 (AE Mckillen A Beram E Oostveen) Beaumaris 0, Mooroolbark 2 (A D'Ortenzio 2) Ashburton 0, Monash University 3 (G Aflato S Kidd K White) Southern Suburbs 1 (T Moutafis), Bentleigh Greens 0 South Springvale 3

Div 3 North-West: Western Suburbs 3 (S Walton 2 R McConnell) Sunshine Georgies 0, Westvale 0 Maribyrnong Greens 2 (R MESINOVIC A Kusur), West Preston 0 Melbourne Tornado 3, Western Eagles 6 (C Kozulin 2 B Kean 2 A Kezovska 2) Diamond Valley Utd 0, Maribyrnong Utd 2 (T Charman G Mandiola) Epping City 1 (Own Goal)

Div 3 South-East: Ashburton 0 Mornington Flames 1 (N Dempster), South Melbourne 3 (A Talevska 3) Richmond 3 (E Meallin N Meredith 2), Endeavour Utd 5 (K Allan K Fernandes S Williamson ML Elder 2) Sandringham 1 (B Gordon), Knox City 0 Noble Park 1 (M Atanasova), Albert Park WSC 2 (AF Tardif TL Colvin) Doncaster Rovers 1

WOMENS METROPOLITAN LEAGUE: North-West: Cairnlea WSC 3 Kyneton District 1, Brunswick City 5 Old Carey 0, FC Bulleen Lions Uni. of Melbourne

South-East: Ringwood City 4 Croydon City Arrows 2, Monash University 7 Swinburne University WSC 0, Albert Park WSC 0 East Bentleigh 5, Endeavour Hills 2 North Caulfield 0, Brighton 7 Sandringham 1

MENS THIRDS: Metro North-West: Altona East Phoenix 1 Werribee City 1, Collingwood City 3 Reservoir Stars 4,

Metro South-East: Old Camberwell Grammar 0 Bayside Argonauts 3, Central Park AC Malvern 8 Scotch Old Boys 1, Sandringham City 9 Old Trinity Grammarians 3,

Central: North Caulfield 0 La Trobe University 3 (G Phillips A De Bon M Umina),

North: Plenty Valley Lions 1 Melbourne Lions 3, Melton 2 Moreland City 2, Watsonia Heights 1 Brunswick City 4,

North-West: Melbourne University Rangers 1 Hoppers Crossing 0, Cairnlea 5 Mitchell Rangers 1, Upfield 3 Brimbank 3, Keilor Park 3 Essendon Utd 1

South: Beaumaris 1 Bayside Argonauts 2, Sandringham City 1 Berwick City 0, Boroondara Eagles 3 Dandenong Thunder 2, Waverley Wanderers 0 Southern Suburbs 5

South-East: Marcellin Eagles SC 3 Scotch Old Boys 1, Caulfield Grammarians 0 Eltham North 2, Old Trinity Grammarians 3 Brighton 0

MENS MASTERS: Metro: Sunshine Blues 3 Heidelberg Utd 4,

South-East: Endeavour Hills 2 Juventus Old Boys 3, Brighton 1 Southern Suburbs 2

Central: Eastern Lions 10 Ashburton 0, Whitehorse Utd 1 North Caulfield 2,

Mens	Metropolitan				League		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Upfield	20	17	3	0	67	21	54
Meadow Park	20	12	6	2	53	22	42
ReservoStrik	20	10	2	8	51	41	32
East Bentleigh	20	10	1	9	36	27	31
Broadmead	20	8	7	5	39	34	31
Ringwood City	20	8	4	8	37	25	25
Glen Waverley	20	6	5	9	31	42	23
DareLegends	20	4	5	11	34	53	17
St. Kevins	20	3	6	11	32	70	15
CaulfGrammarians			20	2	1	17	16 61 7

Mens	Metropolitan				League	Reserves	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Upfield	20	16	1	3	65	23	49
East Bentleigh	20	16	1	3	62	23	49
DarebiLegends	20	13	2	5	57	28	41
ReservoStriker	20	10	3	7	36	31	33
Ringwood City	20	10	2	8	42	37	29
Glen Waverley	20	8	3	9	30	44	27
Meadow Park	20	6	4	10	28	31	22
St. Kevins	20	4	4	12	34	57	16
CGrammari	20		2	4	14	25	6
BroadmeadoUtd			20	2	2	16	19 61 8

Womens	State	League		Div	1	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Uni. of Melbo	15	9	4	2	34	11	31
GRFA	16	8	5	3	29	19	29
BayswatStrike	15	6	5	4	22	21	23
Whitehorse Ut	15	5	5	5	21	17	20
Ballarat Strike	15	6	2	7	25	23	20
Monbulk	15	5	5	5	24	28	20
Brighton	15	3	5	7	21	28	14
WhittleseZebr	15	3	5	7	15	27	14
South Yarra	15	4	2	9	24	41	14

Womens	State	League		Div	1	Reserves	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Uni. of Me	15	11	1	3	51	13	34
Whitehorse Ut	15	10	3	2	32	16	33
WhittlesZebras	15	10	1	4	34	21	31
Monbulk	14	8	1	5	24	23	25
Brighton	14	6	3	5	32	26	21
BayswatStri	15	6	1	8	22	27	19
GRFA	16	3	5	8	23	36	14
South Yarra	15	1	4	10	8	46	7
Ballarat Striker	15	1	3	11	15	33	6

Womens	State	League		Div	2	North-West	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Altona City	17	15	1	1	84	11	46
Bundoora Utd	16	13	1	2	87	21	40
North Geelon	17	9	3	5	35	22	30
Melton	17	8	4	5	22	20	28
La TrobUnivers	16	8	1	7	27	23	25
Fawkner Blue	17	6	3	8	33	50	21
Melbourne Bea	17	7	0	10	23	53	21
Port Melbourne	17	6	2	9	30	46	20
DarebinFalc	17	3	3	11	26	34	12
Brunswick Z	17	0	0	17	6	93	0

Womens	State	League		Div	2	South-East	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
SoutSpring	17	17	0	0	66	10	51
Berwick City	17	12	1	4	49	23	37
MonasUnivers	17	9	4	4	36	23	31
Sandringh	17	7	5	5	38	28	26
Knox Utd	17	8	1	8	44	47	25
Ashburton	17	5	4	8	28	38	19
Mooroolbark	17	5	2	10	18	36	17
SoutheSubur	17	5	1	11	30	33	16
Beaumaris	17	4	3	10	16	40	15
Bentleigh Gre	17	2	1	14	8	55	7

Womens	State				League		
D	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Western Eagl	17	17	0	0	81	5	51
WesterSu	17	12	2	3	41	12	38
SunshiGeor	17	9	3	5	38	28	30
West Preston	18	9	1	8	43	26	28
DiamoValley U	18	7	6	5	26	29	27
MelbourTorn	17	7	2	8	25	23	23
Epping City	17	4	4	9	18	27	16
Maribyrnong	17	4	4	9	17	33	16
Maribyrnong U	17	4	4	9	20	40	16
Westvale	17	0	0	17	7	93	0

Womens	State	League		Div	3	South-East	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Albert Park	17	14	2	1	34	10	44
Morningt	17	13	1	3	46	15	40
Endeavour Ut	17	11	2	4	49	22	35
Noble Park	17	10	4	3	40	14	34
DoncastRovers	16	11	0	5	60	22	33
Richmond	17	6	1	10	19	48	19
Ashburton	17	4	4	9	26	39	16
Sandringh	17	4	2	11	20	39	14
South Melbo	17	2	2	13	24	56	8
Knox City	16	0	0	16	6	59	0

Womens	Metropolitan				League	North-West	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
FC BulleenLi	15	12	3	0	81	10	39
Old Carey	16	11	1	4	64	34	34
Cairnlea WSC	16	10	1	5	80	33	31
Kyneton Distri	17	9	2	6	38	30	29
DOUnited WF	16	8	2	6	52	33	26
Brunswick City	17	7	3	7	37	34	24
BrunswicZebr	16	7	1	8	42	36	22
Fitzroy City		16	6	0	10	44 61	18
Uni. of Melbou	16	2	1	13	17	75	7
MitchelRangers	15	1	0	14	13	122	3

Womens	Metropolitan				League	South-East	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Endeavour Hill	17	13	3	1	72	17	42
North Caulfiel	17	13	2	2	43	13	41
Ringwood Cit	17	12	3	2	70	18	39
East Bentleigh	17	8	6	3	42	31	30
Brighton	17	8	4	5	34	27	28
MonasUnivers	17	6	3	8	31	31	21
Croydon CArr	17	6	2	9	32	34	20
Sandringham	17	2	3	12	15	59	9
SwiUniver	17	1	3	13	9	60	6
Albert Park W	17	0	3	14	10	68	3

Mens	Thirds		Metro			North-West	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Altona EPhoen	14	10	3	1	55	16	33
Werribee City	14	9	3	2	45	21	30
St. Kevins	13	6	2	5	27	29	20
Reservoir Star	14	5	2	7	37	47	17
Collingwood Ci	15	4	4	7	32	36	16
Clifton Hill	14	5	1	8	31	38	16
Uni. of Melbou	14	4	3	7	27	41	15
Old Melburni	13	3	3	7	19	38	12
Fawkner Blues	7	1	3	3	11	18	6
Melbourne Li	0				0	0	-3

Mens	Thirds		Metro			South-East	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
BaysiArgona	17	12	5	0	74	16	41
Old CaGram	17	11	2	4	59	33	35
MonUniversity	16	10	2	4	63	19	32
Melbourne U	16	9	3	4	37	21	30
South Yarra	16	9	2	5	39	28	29
Central ParMa	17	7	5	5	49	34	26
Old Melburnian	16	7	4	5	42	31	25
Riversdale	16	7	3	6	40	30	24
Sandringh City	17	7	0	10	39	47	21
Nova FC	16	3	0	13	18	77	9
Old TGrammar	17	3	0	14	26	90	9
Scotch Old Boy	17	1	0	16	13	73	3

Mens	Thirds				Central		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
La TrUniversity	17	12	5	0	60	14	41
South Yarra	16	12	1	3	85	11	37
JuventuOld Bo	16	9	7	0	48	22	34
BoroondEagl	15	10	1	4	45	35	31
NunawadinCity	15	7	4	4	31	28	25
Central PRa	16	6	3	7	24	38	21
North Caulfiel	17	4	2	11	30	43	14
Ashburton	16	4	1	11	27	63	13
MonaUniversit	16	3	2	11	17	33	11
WaverlWandere	16	0	0	16	8	88	0

Mens	Thirds				North		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
La TrUniversit	15	15	0	0	57	10	45
Brunswick Cit	16	9	1	6	42	33	28
Plenty ValleLi	16	9	1	6	31	27	28
DOC United	15	7	6	2	41	20	27
Melbourne Li	16	6	3	7	33	28	18
Moreland City	16	5	3	8	16	22	18
Uni. of Melbour	16	5	2	9	21	39	17
Watsonia Height	16	4	2	10	29	50	14
Melton	16	2	3	11	19	45	9
Fawkner Blu	8	2	1	5	10	25	7

Mens	Thirds				North-West		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Cairnlea	16	11	2	3	49	29	35
La TrobUnivers	15	9	5	1	41	25	32
Mitchell Range	16	8	2	6	21	27	26
Keilor Park	16	6	5	5	30	25	23
Melbourne Ra	16	6	4	6	23	18	22
Brimbank	15	5	7	3	29	26	22
Essendon Utd	16	6	4	6	36	35	22
Upfield	17	4	5	8	36	44	17
HoppeCrossin	16	2	3	11	22	38	9
GreenvalUnite	9	0	1	8	9	29	1

Mens	Thirds				South		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Doveton	16	13	2	1	56	9	41
SoutheSuburb	17	11	5	1	44	13	38
BoroondaEagl	17	9	5	3	45	27	32
Berwick City	17	8	1	8	31	22	25
SandringhaCit	17	6	4	7	24	31	22
DandeThunde	17	6	2	9	56	57	20
MonaUniversit	16	5	4	7	31	46	19
BaysiArgona	17	5	4	8	22	46	19
Beaumaris	17	3	4	10	22	34	13
WaverWander	17	1	3	13	11	57	6

Mens	Thirds				South-East		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Cleeland Utd	16	13	1	2	79	16	40
MarceEagles	17	12	2	3	75	21	38
BoroondEagle	16	9	2	5	50	28	29
Scotch Old Bo	17	7	4	6	54	32	25
Mooroolbark	16	8	1	7	43	47	25
Old Trinity G	17	8	1	8	36	45	25
CaulfGramma	17			7			2
Old Carey			16	3	2	11 17 60	10
Eltham North			17	3	1	13 20 87	9

Mens	Masters				Metro		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moreland City	14	9	4	1	57	18	31
Bundoora Utd	14	10	1	3	67	29	31
Heidelberg Utd	14	9	1	4	37	27	28
Sunshine Blues	15	8	1	6	38	30	25
Whittlesea Utd	13	4	2	7	27	41	14
Avondale Heigh	12	2	1	9	17	52	7
Watsonia Heigh	14	1	0	13	14	60	3

Mens	Masters				South-East		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
JuventOld Boys	16	13	1	2	59	24	40
SoutheSuburbs	15	11	1	3	39	17	34
Mooroolbark	14	10	0	4	50	24	30
Endeavour Hills	15	8	2	5	43	26	26
BeaumaMasters	14	7	1	6	32	26	22
Brighton	15	4	0	11	27	45	10
DoncasteRovers	14	3	2	9	38	49	11
Glen Waverley	15	2	4	9	27	44	10
Doveton	14	1	3	10	13	73	6

Mens	Masters				Central		
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South Yarra	14	12	2	0	62	16	38
Eastern Lions	16	9	3	4	69	32	30
North Caulfield	15	7	1	7	32	35	22
DOC United FC	13	6	3	4	38	32	21
Whitehorse Utd	15	5	3	7	34	42	18
Uni. of Melbourne	14	3	1	10	20	58	10
Ashburton	13	1	1	11	14	54	4

Boys 18 Super League: Essendon Royals 2 Springvale White Eagles 0, Fawkner South Springvale , Casey Comets 0 FC Bulleen Lions 6, Brunswick City 2 South Melbourne 1, Green Gully Kingston City , Keilor Park 6 Brimbank City 3

Boys S/E 16 Super League: Springvale White Eagles 1 FC Bulleen Lions 1, South Melbourne 2 Chelsea 1, Endeavour Utd 1 Box Hill Inter 0, Eastern Lions 2 Oakleigh 3, Doncaster Rovers 1 Berwick City 1

Boys S/E 15 Super League: Bye FC Bulleen Lions , Oakleigh 1 Dandenong City 2, Nunawading City 4 Dandenong Thunder 0, Mornington North Caulfield , Monash City 1 Berwick City 2

Boys S/E 14 Super League: South Melbourne 1 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Peninsula Strikers JFC 0 Richmond 2, GSL Beaumaris , Monash City 5 Box Hill Inter 0, Sandringham City 3 Oakleigh 2

Boys S/E 13 Super League: Monash City 1 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Brighton 2 Croydon City Arrows 1, GSL 1 South Melbourne 5, N.T.C 4 Box Hill Inter 0, Sandringham City 0 Berwick City 4

Boys N/W 16 Super League: Sunshine Georgies 2 Coburg Utd 1, Cairnlea 1 Hume Utd 4, Green Gully Melbourne Knights , Preston Lions Fawkner , Keilor Park Bye

Boys N/W 15 Super League: Bye Preston Lions , Green Gully Melbourne Knights , Ballarat Academy Of Soccer 0 Fawkner 3, Keilor Park 0 Sunshine Heights 4

Boys N/W 14 Super League: Cairnlea 1 Brimbank 2, Coburg Utd 6 Whittlesea Zebras 0, Green Gully Hume Utd , Brunswick City 2 Essendon Royals 3, Keilor Park 0 Melbourne Knights 4

Boys N/W 13 Super League: Light Utd 2 North City Lions 3, Altona City 1 Essendon Royals 2, Green Gully Melbourne Knights , GRFA 1 Bundoora Utd 2, Keilor Park Brunswick Zebras

Boys Metro 18 Blue: Frankston Pines 6 Altona East 1, Manningham 3 Richmond 1, Stonnington City 3 Eastern Lions 0, Cairnlea 1 Altona City 2, Knox City 3 Doncaster Rovers 3

Boys Metro 18 Orange: Mornington 0 Doveton 2, Beaumaris 0 Brighton 6, Endeavour Utd 0 Berwick City 3, Keysborough 1 Baxter 4, Sandringham City 0 Langwarrin 9

Boys Metro 18 Purple: Bentleigh Greens 2 Preston Lions 1, Sunshine Georgies 2 Whittlesea Zebras 5, DOC United FC Altona Magic , Richmond 3 Heidelberg Utd 0, Oakleigh Westgate

Boys Metro 18 Red: Westvale 2 Northcote City 3, Lalor Utd 2 Brunswick Zebras 1, Western Eagles 5 Essendon Royals 1, Light Utd 1 Melbourne Phoenix JFC 1, Bundoora Utd Ballarat & District SA

Boys Metro 18 Yellow: Brandon Park 6 Darebin Legends 1, Manningham 7 Ashburton 2, Boroondara Lions 3 North Caulfield 6, Sherbrooke Rangers 13 Mooroolbark 0, Doncaster Rovers East Bentleigh

Boys South 16 A: Mornington Bye , Dandenong City 0 Brighton 1, Langwarrin 0 Chelsea 6, Sandringham City 7 Berwick City 0

Boys South 16 B: Bentleigh Greens Bye , Brighton 1 Baxter 5, Beaumaris 3 Doveton 12, Langwarrin 8 Casey Comets 2

Boys South 15 A: East Bentleigh Bye , Langwarrin 4 Casey Comets 0, Chelsea 1 Brighton 0, Doveton 5 Beaumaris 0, Springvale White Eagles 1 Berwick City 0

Boys South 15 B: Langwarrin Bye , Seaford Utd 1 Carrum Utd 3, Peninsula Strikers JFC 2 Brighton 4, Sandringham City 3 Berwick City 1

Boys South 15 C: Phillip Island Bye , Baxter 2 1 Baxter 1 5, Doveton 3 Sandringham City 1, East Bentleigh 0 Beaumaris 2

Boys South 14 A: Chelsea 1 Mornington 4, Hampton 1 Brighton 3, Bentleigh Greens 1 Hampton Park Utd 1, Keysborough 3 Beaumaris 0, Harrisfield Hurricanes 0 Berwick City 1

Boys South 14 B: Endeavour Utd 1 Sandringham City 0, Mornington 1 Bentleigh Greens 1, Hampton 0 Brighton 1, Chelsea 0 Langwarrin 2, Baxter 2 Berwick City 3

Boys South 14 C: Rosebud Bye , Peninsula Strikers JFC 1 East Bentleigh 4, Hampton Park Utd 2 Brighton 6, Seaford Utd 9 Sandringham City 0, Langwarrin 0 Casey Comets 5

Boys South 13 A: Dandenong Thunder Bye , Dandenong City 1 Endeavour Utd 2, Mornington 7 Hampton 1, Keysborough 2 Hampton Park Utd 0, Langwarrin 1 Berwick City 9

Boys South 13 B: Baxter 1 Sandringham City 1, Mornington 1 Brighton 0, Doveton 1 Bentleigh Greens 2, East Bentleigh 4 Beaumaris 2

Boys South 13 C: Mornington 0 Carrum Utd 11, Springvale White Eagles 3 Beaumaris 1, Brighton 5 Rosebud 2, Casey Comets Peninsula Strikers JFC

Boys South 13 D: Endeavour Utd 3 East Bentleigh 0, Lyndale Utd 0 Brighton 6, Peninsula Strikers JFC 0 Langwarrin 3, Frankston Pines 1 Berwick City 12

Boys South 12 A: Bentleigh Greens 0 Mornington 1, Hampton Brighton , GSL 3 Langwarrin 1, South Eastern Piranhas 10 Peninsula Strikers JFC 0, Sandringham City 3 Berwick City 2

Boys South 12 B: Beaumaris Bye , Bentleigh Greens 4 Seaford Utd 1, Casey Comets 2 Sandringham City 0, Hampton Park Utd 2 Melbourne Phoenix JFC 6, Langwarrin 0 Berwick City 4

Boys South 12 C: Mornington Bye , Hampton 1 Brighton 3, Doveton 9 Sandringham City 0, Beaumaris 6 Langwarrin 0, East Bentleigh 1 Hampton Park Utd 1

Boys South 12 D: Baxter 0 Dandenong Thunder 6, Berwick City 1 Brighton 1, Beaumaris 1 Lyndale Utd 3, Keysborough 2 Carrum Utd 1, Doveton 2 East Bentleigh 0

Boys South 12 E: Casey Comets 4 Rosebud 0, Seaford Utd 3 Brighton 1, Peninsula Strikers JFC Casey Panthers , Sandringham City 1 Beaumaris 4, Harrisfield Hurricanes 2 Baxter (Western Port) 0

Boys South 11 Kangaroos Green: Bye Bentleigh Greens , Mornington 3 Kingston City 0, Dandenong City 0 Beaumaris 3, South Eastern Piranhas 2 Brighton 1, Peninsula Strikers JFC Endeavour Utd

Boys South 11 Kangaroos Yellow: Hampton Bye , Brandon Park 6 Chelsea 0, Aspendale 1 Langwarrin 2, Springvale White Eagles 2 GSL 0, Sandringham City 0 Berwick City 1

Boys South 11 Kangaroos/Joeys Red: Beaumaris 6 Sandringham City 0, Brighton 2 0 Brighton 1 0, Mornington 0 Keysborough 1, Hampton 0 Aspendale 0

Boys South 11 Joeys Blue: Carrum Utd 1 Sandringham City 2, Berwick City 1 Brighton 1, Beaumaris 4 Peninsula Strikers JFC 1, Baxter Hampton Park Utd

Boys South 11 Joeys Orange: Seaford Utd 0 Doveton 7, Casey Comets 7 Brighton 0, Beaumaris 1 Berwick City 1, Bentleigh Greens 0 Mornington 3

Boys East 16 A: Riversdale 3 FC Bulleen Lions 3, Doncaster Rovers 6 Richmond 3, Clayton 1 Sherbrooke Rangers 1, Whitehorse 1 Nunawading City 0, Manningham 4 Oakleigh 0

Boys East 16 B: Manningham 0 North Caulfield 4, Boronia 0 Casey Comets 2, Caulfield Utd 11 Knox City 3, Glen Waverley Hampton Park Utd

Boys East 16 C: Croydon City Arrows 2 Hampton 7, Glen Eira 0 Mooroolbark 6, Clayton 0 Ashburton 6, Whitehorse 1 Eastern Lions 5, Mooroolbark 1 South Springvale 5

Boys East 15 A: FC Bulleen Lions Manningham , Doncaster Rovers 2 Richmond 0, Clayton 0 South Melbourne 14, Brandon Park 2 Glen Waverley 1, Boronia 1 Eastern Lions 2

Boys East 15 B: Riversdale 0 FC Bulleen Lions 2, Caulfield Utd 3 Boronia 1, Doncaster Rovers 5 Sherbrooke Rangers 0, Manningham 4 North Caulfield 3, Richmond 1 Oakleigh 2

Boys East 15 C: Mooroolbark Bye , Ringwood City Ashburton 1 , Brandon Park 5 Glen Waverley 0, Whitehorse 14 North Caulfield 0, Ashburton 2 4 Boroondara Lions 3

Boys East 14 A: FC Bulleen Lions 2 Manningham 0, Doncaster Rovers 3 Glen Waverley 0, Waverley Wanderers 0 Knox City 6, Whitehorse 1 North Caulfield 2, Brandon Park 0 Casey Comets 4

Boys East 14 B: Croydon City Arrows 0 Noble Park 5, Ringwood City 1 Doncaster Rovers 2, Eastern Lions Knox City , Stonnington City 5 North Caulfield 0, Glen Waverley Riversdale

Boys East 14 C: Boronia Melbourne Phoenix JFC , Caulfield Utd 0 Mooroolbark 2, Richmond 6 Heidelberg Utd 2, Whitehorse Doncaster Rovers

Boys East 14 D: Bye Riversdale , Stonnington City 2 East Bentleigh 1, Nunawading City 11 Croydon City Arrows 0, Ringwood City 0 Richmond 2, Boroondara Lions 2 Glen Eira 3

Boys East 13 A: South Melbourne 3 Mooroolbark 0, Riversdale Boronia , Nunawading City 2 Glen Waverley 1, Doncaster Rovers 4 North Caulfield 1, Richmond 0 Oakleigh 0

Boys East 13 B: Ashburton Bye , Avondale Heights 1 FC Bulleen Lions 1, Clayton 0 Knox City 0, Glen Eira 0 Richmond 7

Boys East 13 C: Brunswick City 2 North Caulfield 0, FC Bulleen Lions Manningham , Ringwood City 6 Caulfield Utd 0, Boroondara Lions 6 Sherbrooke Rangers 1, Boronia Springvale City

Boys East 13 D: Brandon Park 2 Monash City 3, Clifton Hill 1 Knox Utd 3, Eastern Lions 3 Riversdale 0, Glen Waverley 0 Glen Eira 1, Richmond 2 Ashburton 4

Boys East 13 E: Oakleigh 2 Chelsea 3, Manningham 2 Knox Utd 1, Croydon City Arrows 1 Ringwood City 1, Waverley Wanderers 9 Mooroolbark 0

Boys East 13 F: Eastern Lions 0 Whitehorse 10, North Caulfield Heidelberg Stars , South Springvale 4 Richmond 5, Stonnington City 2 Rowville Eagles 1

Boys East 12 A: Ashburton 0 FC Bulleen Lions 2, South Melbourne 1 Knox City 0, Monash City 1 Box Hill Inter 0, Riversdale 2 North Caulfield 0, Richmond 8 Oakleigh 1

Boys East 12 B: Box Hill Inter Bye , FC Bulleen Lions 7 Manningham 0, Oakleigh 0 Richmond 5, Clayton 2 Springvale City 0, Doncaster Rovers 5 Glen Waverley 1

Boys East 12 C: Doncaster Rovers 1 FC Bulleen Lions 0, Glen Eira 2 South Springvale 1, Mooroolbark 0 Sherbrooke Rangers 11, Lalor 2 North Caulfield 1, Richmond 5 Glen Waverley 0

Boys East 12 D: Eastern Lions 2 Ashburton 2, Croydon City Arrows 2 Boronia 1, Nunawading City 2 Boroondara Lions 0, Riversdale 0 Avondale Heights 4

Boys East 12 E: Croydon City Arrows Bye , Ringwood City Richmond , Boroondara Lions 6 Eastern Lions 0, Whitehorse 6 North Caulfield 1, Ashburton 2 Doncaster Rovers 1

Boys East 12 F: Bye Glen Waverley , Clifton Hill Knox City , Croydon City Arrows 9 Ashburton 0, Boronia 0 Doncaster Rovers 3

Boys East 11 Kangaroos Green: Caulfield Utd Box Hill Inter , Oakleigh 2 Ashburton 0, Richmond 1 Croydon City Arrows 0, FC Bulleen Lions 2 Doncaster Rovers 2

Boys East 11 Kangaroos Orange: Knox Utd Bye , Oakleigh 3 Richmond 0, South

Results & Ladders

Baxter	17	10	1	6	70	41	30
Mornington	17	8	0	9	49	46	24
Keysborough	17	5	2	10	30	53	17
Endeavour Ut	17	2	3	12	21	74	8
Sandringh City	17	2	1	14	18	73	7
Beaumaris	17	0	2	15	22	92	2

Boys Metro 18 Purple

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Richmond	17	15	1	1	73	15	46
WhittleseZeb	17	13	1	3	46	24	40
Oakleigh	16	11	3	2	45	27	36
Heidelberg	16	6	2	8	39	49	20
Preston Lions	16	6	2	8	30	42	20
Bentleigh Gree	16	5	3	8	34	35	18
Altona Magic	16	4	5	7	27	35	17
DOC United	16	5	2	9	30	43	17
SunshiGeorg	16	3	3	10	26	40	12
Westgate	16	1	2	13	18	58	5

Boys Metro 18 Red

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
MelbPhoenix	17	15	2	0	71	15	47
WesternEag	17	12	1	4	58	26	37
Light Utd	17	10	3	4	49	23	33
Bundoora U	16	8	4	4	55	38	28
Northcote Ci	17	9	1	7	53	38	28
Lalor Utd	17	8	0	9	48	55	24
Ballarat Dist	16	5	2	9	33	51	17
EssendRoyals	17	4	3	10	32	50	15
Westvale	17	3	2	12	22	64	11
BrunswicZebra	17	0	2	15	13	74	2

Boys Metro 18 Yellow

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Brandon Park	17	16	0	1	65	16	48
North Caulfield	17	14	1	2	68	25	43
Manningham	17	11	2	4	76	23	35
DoncasteRov	16	9	3	4	46	30	29
BoroondarLi	17	9	0	8	45	40	27
SherbroRan	17	7	2	8	61	44	23
DarebiLegends	17	4	3	10	26	50	14
East Bentleigh	16	4	1	11	19	70	13
Ashburton	17	4	0	13	31	58	12
Mooroolbark	17	0	0	17	8	89	0

Boys South 16 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
SandringhaCi	15	12	1	2	43	14	37
Brighton	15	12	0	3	47	14	36
Dandenong	15	9	1	5	54	30	28
Chelsea	15	7	0	8	43	39	21
Mornington	13	5	1	7	31	26	16
Langwarrin	14	4	1	9	21	43	13
Southern Sta	0				0	0	0
Berwick City	15	0	0	15	17	90	0

Boys South 16 B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Doveton	13	12	1	0	88	18	37
Baxter	13	10	1	2	48	17	31
Langwarrin	13	9	1	3	45	24	28
Bentleigh Gree	13	4	2	7	25	34	14
Brighton	14	4	1	9	24	55	13
Casey Comets	13	3	0	10	23	52	9
Beaumaris	13	1	0	12	25	78	3

Boys South 15 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Langwarrin	14	13	0	1	42	8	39
Doveton	15	10	2	3	38	14	32
Chelsea	15	10	0	5	44	28	30
Brighton	15	10	0	5	33	19	30
Berwick City	15	6	1	8	28	30	19
East Bentleig	15	5	3	7	23	31	18
Beaumaris	15	5	2	8	30	30	17
Casey Comets	15	2	1	12	17	47	7
Springvale W	15	1	1	13	11	59	4

Boys South 15 B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sandringha	17	14	1	2	60	20	43
Brighton	16	12	1	3	50	17	37
PeninsStriker	16	8	4	4	58	40	28
Langwarrin	16	7	1	8	33	29	22
Berwick City	16	5	3	8	23	25	18
Carrum Utd	16	3	3	10	20	46	12
Seaford Utd	16	3	0	13	17	76	9
Hampton Par	7	1	1	5	17	25	4

Boys South 15 C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Endeavour Ut	14	12	2	0	45	11	38
Baxter 1	16	11	3	2	63	21	36
Doveton	15	6	5	4	33	20	23
Beaumaris	15	6	4	5	27	27	22
Phillip Island	15	5	4	6	45	36	19
SandringhaCit	15	4	3	8	15	41	15
Baxter 2	14	4	2	8	22	36	14
East Bentle	15	3	3	9	11	34	12
Brighton	15	3	0	12	26	61	9

Boys South 14 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Berwick City	17	16	1	0	89	10	49
Brighton	17	10	4	3	57	14	34
Bentleigh Gr	17	8	5	4	53	17	29
HarrisfiHur	17	9	2	6	35	26	29
HamptoPark	17	8	4	5	47	42	28
Hampton	17	6	3	8	21	39	21
Chelsea	17	4	6	7	24	35	18
Mornington	17	4	3	10	32	61	15
Keysborough	17	3	0	14	24	92	9
Beaumaris	17	2	2	13	17	63	8

Boys South 14 B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Endeavour Ut	17	16	1	0	80	7	49
Sandringh Ci	17	13	2	2	35	8	41
Bentleigh G	17	12	1	4	58	22	37
Langwarrin	17	11	0	6	39	17	33
Berwick City	17	6	1	10	34	53	19
Chelsea	17	5	3	9	29	42	18
Brighton	17	4	3	10	12	37	15
Mornington	17	4	2	11	12	31	14
Hampton	17	4	0	13	18	51	12
Baxter	17	3	1	13	19	68	10

Boys South 14 C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
East Bentleigh	15	14	1	0	75	19	43
Casey Come	15	9	4	2	66	23	31
Seaford Utd	16	9	3	4	53	24	30
Rosebud	15	9	3	3	49	21	30
Langwarrin	15	8	1	6	30	26	25
PeninsStrike	15	5	2	8	30	39	17
Brighton	15	2	1	12	24	52	
SandringhaCi	15	2	1	12	19	72	7
HamptoPark U	15	2	0	13	9	79	6

Boys South 13 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
DandeThund	15	11	2	2	48	15	35
Mornington	14	11	1	2	42	20	34
Berwick City	15	10	2	3	41	14	32
Keysborough	15	8	2	5	29	14	26
Endeavour Ut	15	8	1	6	26	20	25
HamptoPark U	15	6	1	8	26	22	19
Dandenong Ci	15	5	1	9	23	23	16
Langwarrin	15	2	0	13	17	61	6
Hampton	15	1	0	14	13	76	3

Boys South 13 B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bentleigh Gr	17	15	0	2	73	19	45
East Bentleigh	17	13	1	3	49	17	40
Doveton	17	10	1	6	41	21	31
Brighton	17	8	2	7	26	32	26
Beaumaris	17	8	1	8	36	37	25
Mornington	17	6	3	8	25	23	21
Sandringh Cit	17	2	1	14	13	69	7
Baxter	17	1	1	15	15	60	4

Boys South 13 C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Brighton	16	14	0	2	55	10	42
Springvale E	17	11	1	5	50	30	34
Carrum Utd	17	10	1	6	49	39	31
PeninStrikers	16	9	1	6	45	15	28
Casey Comets	15	9	0	6	37	30	27
Rosebud	17	5	2	10	44	59	17
Beaumaris	17	5	0	12	22	52	15
Mornington	17	0	1	16	11	78	1

Boys South 13 D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Berwick City	17	14	0	3	63	19	42
Endeavour	17	12	3	2	47	15	39
Langwarrin	17	9	7	1	38	16	34
Brighton	17	9	4	4	34	15	31
Lyndale Utd	17	6	5	6	47	46	23
Frankston Pin	17	3	2	12	17	51	11
PeninsStrik	17	1	3	13	7	44	6
East Bentleigh	17	1	2	14	5	52	5

Boys South 12 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South EPir	16	16	0	0	94	6	48
Sandringham C	17	12	2	3	56	20	
Brighton	16	12	1	3	44	19	37
Mornington	17	11	1	5	35	24	34
GSL	17	7	3	7	27	31	24
Berwick City	17	7	2	8	54	37	23
Hampton	16	3	5	8	13	45	14
Bentleigh Gr	17	1	6	10	14	51	9
PeninsStrike	17	1	3	13	7	64	6
Langwarrin	16	0	3	13	10	57	3

Boys South 12 B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
MelboPhoenix	16	14	1	1	81	9	43
Casey Comet	16	12	2	2	44	9	38
Beaumaris	16	11	1	4	47	11	34
Berwick City	16	10	2	4	30	24	32
Sandringh City	16	7	5	4	40	15	26
HamptoPark	16	7	1	8	38	35	22
Southern Sta	9	4	0	5	16	20	12
Bentleigh Gr	16	3	0	13	18	83	9
Langwarrin	17	2	1	14	12	68	7
Seaford Utd	16	0	1	15	7	59	1

Boys South 12 C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Doveton	15	15	0	0	120	2	45
Brighton	15	12	1	2	58	11	37
HamptoPark	15	9	2	4	32	28	29
Beaumaris	15	9	1	5	54	26	28
Mornington	15	4	5	6	27	41	17
East Bentlei	16	3	4	9	26	46	13
Hampton	15	3	3	9	16	46	12
Sandringh	15	2	3	10	8	50	9
Langwarrin	15	0	3	12	5	96	3

Boys South 12 D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
DandeThunde	17	17	0	0	107	6	51
Doveton	17	10	4	3	40	17	34
Lyndale Utd	17	10	3	4	42	26	33
Keysborough	17	9	3	5	36	35	30
East Bentleig	17	7	4	6	34	31	25
Berwick City	17	6	4	7	24	39	22
Carrum Utd	17	4	6	7	18	32	18
Beaumaris	17	4	3	10	16	38	15
Brighton	17	2	5	10	17	45	11
Baxter	17	0	0	17	1	66	0

Boys South 12 E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Casey Panthe	16	14	1	1	56	11	43
HarrisfiHurr	17	13	1	3	38	8	40
Bax(Western	17	11	1	5	72	27	34
Beaumaris	17	11	1	5	55	24	34
Casey Comet	17	10	1	6	45	29	31
SandringhaC	17	7	2	8	24	29	23
Brighton	17	4	2	11	20	45	13
Rosebud			17	2	5	10	10	51	11
Seaford Utd	17	3	1	13	12	68	10
PeninsStrikers	16	0	3	13	9	49	2

Boys South 11 Kangaroos Green

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Brighton	16	13	1	2	89	9	40
Mornington	15	10	4	1	54	8	34
South EaPi	15	10	3	2	53	15	33
Beaumaris	15	9	3	3	53	10	30
Bentleigh Gre	15	7	4	4	42	15	25
Dandenong Ci	15	6	1	8	29	38	19
Endeavour U	14	3	0	11	12	57	9
PeninsStrik	14	1	0	13	7	77	3
Kingston City	15	0	0	15		1111	0

Boys South 11 Kangaroos Yellow

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Springvale Ea	17	16	1	0	82	7	49
Berwick City	16	13	0	3	52	15	39
GSL	16	10	2	4	34	13	32
Langwarrin	16	8	3	5	34	25	27
Brandon Park	16	6	3	7	31	39	21
Sandringh Cit	16	6	2	8	31	35	20
Southern S	9	4	1	4	9	8	13
Hampton	16	3	3	10	13	35	12
Aspendale	16	2	1	13	16	53	7
Chelsea	16	1	0	15	5	77	3

Boys South 11 Kangaroos/Joeys Red

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Mornington	17	15	1	1	69	6	46
Beaumaris	17	13	3	1	101	7	42
Brighton 1	17	11	3	3	60	8	36
Brighton 2	17	8	3	6	33	19	27
SandringhaCi	17	4	2	11	14	45	14
Hampton	17	3	3	11	8	55	12
Keysborough	17	3	1	13	17	71	10
Aspendale	17	2	2	13	6	97	8

Boys South 11 Joeys Blue

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
HamptoPark	16	15	0	1	59	6	45
Beaumaris	17	11	1	5	39	14	34
Berwick City	17	10	2	5	24	25	32
Brighton	17	8	5	4	28	26	29
Baxter	16	6	3	7	7	12	21
Sandringh C	17	4	3	10	16	30	15
Carrum Utd	17	1	1	15	8	58	4

Boys South 11 Joeys Orange

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Doveton	17	15	1	1	69	8	46
Casey Co	17	12	4	1	51	10	40
Berwick City	17	8	6	3	41	12	30
Mornington	17	8	5	4	25	14	29
Beaumaris	17	4	7	6	14	23	19
Seaford Utd	17	4	2	11	17	50	14
Bentleigh Gr	17	2	2	13	10	58	8
Brighton	17	0	3	14	5	57	3

Boys East 16 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Whitehorse	17	12	0	5	37	22	36
Manningham	17	11	2	4	38	22	35
Nunawadi Ci	17	10	3	4	33	21	33
Riversdale	17	8	4	5	37	22	27
SherbroRan	17	8	1	8	41	34	25
DoncasteRo	17	8	2	7	35	35	25
FC Bulleen	17	7	1	9	34	35	22
Oakleigh	17	5	1	11	33	53	16
Richmond	7	4	1	12	36	57	13
Clayton	17	3	3	11	20	43	12

Boys East 16 B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
North Caulfie	17	15	1	1	74	20	46
Casey Comet	17	13	1	3	78	34	40
Boronia	17	10	3	4	65	26	33
Glen Waverle	16	10	1	5	49	39	31
Caulfield Utd	17	8	1	8	74	45	25
HamptPark Utd	16	3	2	11	52	64	11
Manningham	17	3	1	13	25	68	10
Knox City	17	0	0	17	20	141	0

Boys East 16 C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Eastern Lions	17	16	0	1	82	19	48
Mooroolbark	16	13	1	2	51	14	40
Ashburton	17	11	1	5	60	29	34
SoutSpringvale	17	10	1	6	65	30	31
Hampton	17	9	1	7	64	33	28
Whitehorse	17	8	3	6	56	34	27
Croydon Arro	17	3	3	11	36	71	12
Mooroolbark	17	3	3	11	23	69	12
Clayton	17	2	1	14	13	78	7
Glen Eira	16	1	2	13	17	90	5

Boys East 15 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South Melbou	17	15	1	1	62	9	46
Boronia	17	12	2	3	48	13	38
Brandon Park	17	9	3	5	49	27	30
FC Bulleen Li	15	8	4	3	47	11	27
Richmond	17	8	2	7	35	18	26
Eastern Lions	17	7	4	6	46	27	25
DoncasteRov	16	5	5	6	43	41	19
Manningham	16	3	2	11	21	45	11
Glen Waverley	17	2	5	10	19	43	11
Clayton	17	0	0	17		2138	0

Boys East 15 B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Oakleigh	17	14	3	0	46	11	45
FC BulleenLio	17	12	3	2	54	18	39
Richmond	17	10	2	5	52	29	32
DoncasteRov	17	8	2	7	26	27	26
Riversdale	17	6	5	6	37	23	22
Caulfield Utd	17	6	3	8	22	36	21
Boronia	17	4	4	9	23	53	15
North Caulfiel	17	3	5	9	39	48	14
Manningham	17	3	4	10	21	41	13
SherbrRanger	17	3	1	13	16	50	10

Boys East 15 C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Whitehorse	15	13	0	2	61	6	39
Brandon Park	15	10	4	1	33	6	34
Ashburton 1	14	9	1	4	58	11	28
Ringwood City	14	9	1	4	29	21	27
Mooroolbark	15	6	2	7	23	30	19
North Caulfiel	15	5	3	7	25	51	18
Glen Waverley	15	3	2	10	20	45	11
Ashburton 2	16	3	1	12	16	59	10
BoroondarLion	15	1	2	12	16	52	5

Boys East 14 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox City	17	16	1	0	103	7	49
Whitehorse	17	11	2	4	51	12	35
DoncastRover	17	10	5	2	39	12	34
FC BulleenLion	17	10	3	4	31	19	32
North Caulfie	17	9	1	7	39	45	28
Casey Comets	17	6	3	8	26	34	21
Glen Waverley	17	4	2	11	19	52	14
Brandon Park	17	3	1	13	11	51	10
Manningh	17	3	1	13	20	64	10
WaverWande	17	1	5	11	10	53	8

Boys East 14 B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Stonnington	17	15	2	0	53	6	47
Ringwood Cit	17	13	0	4	42	19	39
Riversdale	16	11	3	2	41	19	36
DoncastRov	17	7	3	7	32	25	24
Noble Park	17	7	3	7	41	36	24
Knox City	16	6	4	6	32	27	22
Eastern Lions	16	6	2	8	30	32	20
Glen Waverle	16	3	3	10	22	41	12
North Caulfield	17	3	1	13	19	61	10
Croydon CiA	17	0	3	14	7	53	3

Boys East 14 C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
MelbPhoeni	16	16	0	0	147	5	48
Whitehorse	16	13	1	2	82	11	40
Richmond	17	12	0	5	63	23	36
Boronia	16	8	2	6	40	32	25
Mooroolbark	17	6	2	9	34	51	19
Heidelberg Utd	17	5	0	12	24	96	15
DoncasteRove	15	1	2	12	12	70	5
Caulfield Utd	18	1	1	16	13	127	4

Boys East 14 D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Nunawadi City	15	12	3	0	69	11	39
Glen Eira	15	12	2	1	58	20	38
Richmond	15	11	1	3	70	13	34
Riversdale	15	8	1	6	44	25	25
Stonnington Cit	15	7	2	6	34	31	23
BoroondarLio	15	4	3	8	36	39	15
East Bentleigh	15	4	0	11	21	66	12
Ringwood Cit	15	3	1	11	23	47	10
Croydon CAr	16	0	1	15	7	110	1

Boys East 13 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Richmond	17	15	2	0	60	5	47
Oakleigh	17	12	3	2	44	13	39
Glen Waverle	17	9	3	5	31	21	30
North Caulfiel	17	6	6	5	25	25	24
DoncasteRove	17	7	1	9	28	33	22
South Melbour	16	5	3	8	20	25	18
Riversdale	16	4	6	6	23	33	18
Nunawadin C	16	5	0	11	14	47	15
Mooroolbark	16	3	2	11	16	34	11
Boronia	15	3	1	11	16	41	10

Boys East 13 B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
FC Bulleen Li	16	11	5	0	44	6	38
Richmond	15	11	2	2	44	7	35
Knox City	15	9	1	5	36	11	28
Ashburton	15	6	3	6	23	23	20
Clayton	5	4	4	7	14	17	16
Avondale	15	3	3	9	18	25	11
Glen Eira	15	0	0	15	5	95	0

Boys East 13 C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Manningham	16	12	2	2	44	9	38
BoroondarLi	17	12	1	4	47	16	37
Ringwood City	17	12	1	4	42	15	37
FC Bulleen Li	16	9	2	5	32	16	29
North Caulfield	17	8	1	8	33	22	25
SherbroRang	17	7	1	9	29	34	21
Brunswick Cit	17	5	3	9	26	39	17
Caulfield Utd	17	5	1	11	28	41	16
Boronia	16	4	1	11	17	34	13
Springvale City	16	2	1	13	14	86	7

Boys East 13 D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Knox Utd	17	14	2	1	80	18	44
Eastern Lions	17	12	2	3	39	8	38
Brandon Park	17	12	1	4	48	10	37
Clifton Hill	17	11	1	5	44	20	34
Glen Eira	17	7	3	7	27	22	24
Richmond	17	6	2	9	23	40	20
Ashburton	17	6	1	10	24	53	19
Riversdale	17	5	2	10	16	39	17
Monash City	17	3	2	12	18	57	11
Glen Waverley	17	1	0	16	11	63	3

Boys East 13 E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
WavWan	17	12	4	1	61	11	40
CroydonArro	17	11	5	1	36	11	38
Chelsea	17	10	3	4	46	15	33
Ringwood Ci	17	5	7	5	17	22	22
Oakleigh	17	6	4	7	28	28	21
Knox Utd	17	6	2	9	26	31	19
Manningham	17	3	5	9	24	39	14
Mooroolbark	17	0	0	17	6	87	0

Boys East 13 F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Whitehorse	17	17	0	0	86	6	51
Heidelberg St	16	13	0	3	70	8	39
Richmond	17	11	2	4	44	27	35
Stonnington Cit	17	6	2	9	24	40	20
SoutSpringval	17	6	1	10	27	50	19
Rowville Eagle	17	4	5	8	25	47	17
North Caulfiel	16	2	3	11	12	44	9
Eastern Lions	17	0	3	14	8	74	3

Boys East 12 A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South M	17	17	0	0	54	3	51
Box Hill Inter	17	12	1	4	42	9	37
Richmond	17	10	3	4	62	23

KNOX PROMOTION HOPES FADE

Eastern Lions 0
Knox City 0

Knox City's flickering hopes of snatching an unlikely passage to Division One were extinguished when they were held to a nil-all draw at Eastern Lions.

Northcote City's win sealed the championship and congratulations are due to a team that has lead the league for virtually all season. Eastern Lions moved a point nearer safety as the teams below them all lost.

With a number of players in both sides having played for the opposition, this was always going to be a hard fought affair and so it proved as neither side was able to establish any superiority.

Scoring chances were few and far between and the two clearest chances came in the second half. Firstly, Edgar hit the Lions crossbar with a powerful header and then in the 95th minute, Jorgensen in the Knox goal conceded and then saved a penalty with the very last kick of the game. The referee immediately blew for full time.

The first half was an arm wrestle. Knox had the better of the early play with a Nick Veljovic free kick deflected for a corner their closest effort. Lions came back and were the better side for the second part of this half as they were consistently first to the ball. Veljovic proved his worth at the other end when he headed off the line after Ziada had lobbed over the onrushing Jorgensen.

Spina also missed a chance for the home side when Jorgensen came out but failed to gather the ball.

The second half was a more open affair as both teams chased the elusive opening goal. Edgar headed against the bar with Abougelis well beaten before Hingert shpwed some great tracking back to dispossess Swaine as he broke free.

Ziada then missed a great opportunity to give the home side the lead when he picked up a poor headed clearance. He had a clear sight of goal but missed the target.

At the other end Valadon beat Abougelis to a through ball but Willcocks covered his keeper and headed the ball off the line. Abougelis then made amends as he finger tipped a shot from Daniel Veljovic over the bar.

As the clock ran down, Lions broke down the left wing. The ball was squared to Spina on his own 15 metres out. Jorgensen brought him down but then made amends by saving O'Hare's spot kick.

Eastern Lions: N. Abougelis, R. Markley, S. Nasser, M. Verniers, D. Willcocks, B. Ziada (R. Wallace – 82nd), M. O'Hare, T. Spina, N. Bouios, P. McEvoy (J. Choi – 90th), L. Swaine. Subs not used: E. Huynh, A. Williams, A. Lightfoot.

Knox City: M. Jorgensen, A. Edgar, N. Veljovic, Z. Martinez, C. Kerr (P. Nedza – 71st), J. Hingert, J. Valadon, K. Suat, M. Hoogendyk, A. Saunders (A. Hughes – 68th), D. Veljovic. Subs not Used: P. Veljovic, A. Asimakidis, K. McEvoy.

State League Two SE

By Bruce Darnell

GALLANT STARS FAIL TO KNOCK THUNDER OFF COURSE FOR VPL

Dandenong Thunder 1
Southern Stars 1

State League Division One front-runners Dandenong Thunder and Southern Stars played an exciting 1-1 draw in their promotion battle at George Andrews Reserve on Saturday night before a crowd of 500 fans.

The result leaves the home team favourite to win promotion to the Premier League alongside Sunshine Georgies. The Thunder sits three points ahead of the Stars with superior goal difference, needing to win just one of its final two matches to guarantee promotion.

Saturday night's crowd atmosphere resembled a cup-tie with both sets of fans in full voice enjoying an attacking football display from both sides.

The visitors attacked from the first whistle producing a whirlwind first half which had the home team on the defensive..

Stars' midfield playmaker Colin Quirk made his mark early. His ability to wrong-foot opponents gave him the time and space to play the ball into his attackers' feet. He was ably supported by Andy Ross who showed good composure on the ball in heavy traffic. Skipper Fatih Akdogan fought hard for every ball occasionally giving away free kicks through overzealous challenges. The Stars dominated the first half creating eight shots to the Thunders' three. Tierry Boi and Aron Wilford went close with headers for the Stars, whilst Quirk curled a left foot shot onto the upright with the keeper beaten.

Thunder regrouped at half time and started to penetrate the Stars defence, building an attacking momentum which culminated in a 62nd minute goal to Veton Korcarevski who blasted home from close range.

The Stars never gave up however and when Quirk fed Sercan Doganay with a pass in the 75th minute, the young striker surged forward on a powerful run into the heart of the Thunder defence and drove the ball into the net from outside the box for the equalizer. Both sides had chances to win the game with Korcarevski striking the upright for the home team. The Stars missed a late chance when Doganay shot into the side netting when he could have crossed instead to an unmarked Rasim Sezgi in the middle.

Thunder coach Zoran Trajceski commented afterwards, " This was a very exciting game from both sides. We played good. They played very good. It wasn't a tactical game which was unusual. It was a more open game. In the end I'm more than happy with the result… Their number 22 (Quirk) was an excellent player. We didn't close him up enough."

Stars coach Dean Hennessy, said after the game " It was a very good game of football. Very, very proud of my team. I thought we were the better team all night. As the game went on I thought we can win it. Even when they went behind, they showed they've got the character to come back. A lot of teams would've folded. But they've got good character and they've come a long way. We've grown as a team. We've come to Dandenong, on their pitch and we've outplayed them. We've had really good players all over the pitch tonight…. We're playing dearly for our bad run in mid- season. Mathematically promotion is not impossible. Realistically it's probably got away from us now."

Stars coach Dean Hennessy (right) congratulates Thunder coach Zoran Trajceski after the match.
PHOTO: George Stogiannou

State League One

By George Stogiannou

REDS NIGHTMARE SEASON CONTINUES WITH ANOTHER LOSS

Kingston City 1
Sunshine Georgies 3

The nightmare for the Reds supportes continued on Friday night at the Grange Reserve when their beloved team suffered another loss, this time to league leaders Sunshine.

The Kingston team that took all before it 2 years ago in its first year in the Premier league is now a shadow of itself and the club struggled to field a reserves team on Friday night.

In what has been the most turbulent season at the club, the senior team fielded only one player from the team put together by coach Costa Caimakamis who started the season as the senior coach. The current coach Sam Elmazi had to call up 7 players from the under 21's team to fill the spots of players who are suspended or injured.

The visitors started the game positively looking for an early goal and a chance to improve their already healthy goal difference. They created their first goal scoring chance in the 10th minute when a long cross found Harrhy who glanced his header just wide of the goal.

Four minutes later Manceski pounced onto a long ball and headed it just wide of the advancing Tosic who was caught in no mans land.

The more experienced visitors were pounding the young Kingston defence lead by Mladen Tosic and created several opportunities but were denied by some great goal keeping by the Reds keeper and desperate defending by the young defenders.

On the 30 minute mark the home team stunned the crowd when they took the lead. A shot by Manceski was saved by Tosic who kicked the ball long to Limic who turned and lobbed the ball over John in the Sunshine goal to give the home team an unexpected lead.

In the 40 minute mark Sunshine equalized when Ashby and Leorgan failed to clear a long ball which landed with Manceski. The sunshine forward took the ball to his left and lobbed it over Tosic who came off his line to close the angle.

Kingston's resistance in the second half lasted just 8 minutes before Sunshine scored their second goal through Wayne Wallace. The visitors moved the ball forward with a series of quick passes and a low cross from the right was met perfectly by Wallace who sides footed it to the back post to beat Tosic.

In the 71st minute Kingston squandered a great chance to equalize when Adrian Chilla managed to slip between two defenders and run into the eighteen yard box only to lose his footing and see the ball bounce to the Sunshine goalie.

The game was sealed in the 80th minute when the linesman on the right line was caught out of position and he missed an obvious off side. The home team stopped to appeal for off-side however the referee waved play on, and Sunshine were able to cross the ball to Harrhy to score his second and his team third goal.

In the last 7 minutes the Kingston coach made two substitution, replacing Petrou with Colosimo, and Alvarez with Pantsadlou.

State League One

Photos by John Kakouros

By Nic Townsend

THE BEST OF BRITISH?

With the Olympic games currently on much thought has been given to the idea of a British Olympic Football team being set up in time for 2012. The British Olympic Association is dead keen on the idea but the big stumbling block is still the unwillingness of Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland to even consider the idea. Without their support it can hardly be called a British team.

The football associations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are unique in FIFA in that neither represents independent countries. However as far as FIFA rules are concerned each is an independent entity and thus entitled to all the privileges and voting rights of independent countries. This has been a source of envy for other fiercely autonomous regions like Catalonia, who are forced to support a Spanish national team.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland fear that a British team, even as a once off, will undermine their independence and set a bad precedent. If a British team comes into existence it will refute their supposed separateness and be used as justification for stripping them of their membership privileges.

But all politics aside, what would a British team actually look like? For many Scots and Welsh, Great Britain and England can almost be interchangeable terms. Football is unlikely to be an exception and it's hard to believe that a British team would look much different the current English team. It may pain many people to admit it but realistically there is not a single player in all of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland that could command a place in a British starting 11.

Both Scotland and Northern Ireland nearly qualified for the last European Championships and arguably did better than England considering each was in a significantly harder group. However both are also lacking in star individual players. Manchester United's Darren Fletcher is the only Scot currently playing at what can described as a 'big club' but at best he could only be expected to be a fringe player in a midfield that includes Frank Lampard, Steven Gerrard, Gareth Barry and David Bentley. Kenny Miller, Scotland's main source of goals last qualifying campaign, wasn't able to replicate his international form at either Celtic or Derby, while James McFadden looks likely to spend this season playing for Birmingham in the Championship.

The Great Britain amateur national team, winners of the football tournament at the 1908 Summer Olympics in London. Will Britain have a team ready for the London Olympics in 2012?
Source: Illustration in the "Fourth Olympiad 1908 London Official Report" published by the British Olympic Association in 1909

Scotland's Darren Fletcher

England's Frank Lampard

Northern Ireland's David Healy, whose 13 goals in the European qualifiers are a record, struggled at Fulham managing only 4 goals in 35 games. As for Wales, only Fulham's Simon Davies and Wigan's Jason Koumas can boast of significant Premier League experience.

Admittedly there is still another four years before the London Olympics, and most of the squad will need to be under 23, so it is way too early to start predicting who might be selected. However recent history suggests that English players will dominate any British side. Ryan Giggs is probably the only non-English player of recent times who could have commanded a spot in the starting eleven of a British side.

Scots and Welsh will loath to admit it but it is hard to argue back against the cold hard facts. British Olympic organisers don't want to admit it either as it undermines the whole principle behind a British team. Hence the desire to appoint Sir Alex Ferguson as manager to ensure at least some Scottish influence into what will most likely be a de-facto English team.

Some of the best British players of all time have come from outside of England's borders. Kenny Dalglish, Mark Hughes, Ian Rush, George Best, Bill Shankly, just to name a few. But it comes down to simple mathematics: England is a bigger country with a significantly bigger population. Star non-English players don't come round often enough or in large enough numbers to ensure a truly representative British side.

Gossip and Transfer Speculation from the English Media...

Shev To Return "Home"

Chelsea striker Andriy Shevchenko will rejoin AC Milan subject to a medical, the Premier League club confirmed on Saturday.

Shevchenko has endured a miserable time at Stamford Bridge since his club record 30 million pounds (37 million euros) move from Milan in 2006 and had been repeatedly linked with a return to the San Siro.

Chelsea have been keen to cut their losses for several months and the Ukraine striker, who has scored just nine league goals for the club, is expected to complete an emotional return to Serie A next week.

"I'm happy," Shevchenko told www.acmilan.com. "I have hoped for a return for a while and yesterday I began to believe that this deal could end well. For me it is as if I've won the Champions League. happy."

Gold Medal For Argentina

Argentina remain Olympic football champions after a goal engineered by superstar Lionel Messi inspired them to a 1-0 win over former champions Nigeria in the gold medal match at the Beijing Games on Saturday.

Messi disentangled himself from Nigeria's tight marking to put teammate Angel Di Maria clear on goal early in the second half of a final played in sapping 35-degree midday heat before a near capacity crowd of 89,102 at the National Stadium.

Benfica's Di Maria chipped over the advancing goalkeeper Ambruse Vanzekin to break the deadlock and score what proved the winning goal in the 58th minute.

"It was a dream game. All I could think of was thank God the ball went over the line and now thanks to that I have a gold medal," Di Maria said. Argentina successfully defended the Olympic crown from their 1-0 win over Paraguay in Athens four years ago. They are now unbeaten in 12 matches stretching over two Games, an Olympic football record.

Lazio Want Crespo

Lazio coach Delio Rossi has said that he would like to sign Hernan Crespo from Inter Milan before the transfer window ends in a few days time.

The Argentinean goal poacher had his most successful years when previously with Lazio from 2000 – 2002. During those three seasons his strike rate was the highest that it has been with any club, fifty two goals in only seventy matches.

Rossi added that he was not looking to simply plug gaps but to fill his team with top quality players. He hoped to sign the striker before the season commences in a week's time.

If Hernan Crespo were to move to Lazio then it could come at quite a cost to the player as he would have to take a significant cut in salary.

Thaksin To Quit City

Manchester City owner Thaksin Shinawatra has offered to quit the club's board after fleeing Thailand with corruption charges hanging over him, its executive chairman said in comments reported Saturday.

Garry Cook said that Thaksin, the former Thai prime minister facing corruption charges over a property scandal in his homeland, was "embarrassed" about the situation, adding the club was exploring a range of possible actions. Thaksin, who brought his family to Britain earlier this month, could fall foul of the Premier League's fit and proper person test, which sets guidelines on who can and cannot be involved in top-flight clubs.

"Doctor Thaksin has been really open about this," said Cook, who was appointed by Thaksin, said in comments quoted in the British press.

"The man is embarrassed about the indignity brought on the club and on the league. He never intended for this to be the case. "He has said to me: 'If you need me to resign as a director to serve the needs of the Premier League, I'm fine with that as long as it doesn't change anything else.'"

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